

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

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THE TIMES

No. 64,854 MONDAY JANUARY 17 1994 RK

Clinton hails breakthrough

Assad ready to sign peace with Israelis

BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN GENEVA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

■ The Middle East peace talks resume in Washington next week with hopes of a comprehensive deal raised by the gesture to Israel of President Assad of Syria

PRESIDENT Assad of Syria broke new ground yesterday in the search for a comprehensive Middle East peace by offering Israel the one word it *has been waiting* for.

Mr Assad signalled for the first time his readiness to establish "normal" relations with the Jewish state — a country with which he is technically at war.

"We want the peace of the brave, a genuine peace that can survive," he told a press conference in Geneva at the end of a five-hour summit meeting with President Clinton. "If the leaders of Israel have sufficient courage to respond, a new era of security and stability in which there are normal peaceful relations among all shall dawn."

He had discussed Middle East peace with four American presidents, but doubted that he would discuss it with a fifth: "We are ready to sign peace now."

Mr Assad's statement was hailed by Mr Clinton as "clear, forthright and very important", and the American leader urged Israel to respond. He said the Geneva meeting had laid the foundation for real progress when the Middle East peace talks resume in Washington next week.

American officials were last night heading for Jerusalem to brief Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister. Mr Rabin reserved judgment on the Geneva summit, but said Israel was ready to take "brave steps" for peace. He questioned, however, whether Damascus was equally prepared.

Other ministers gave a guarded welcome to the statement. Yossi Sarid, the environment minister, said: "For the first time we heard President Assad talking about peace as a strategic option. This statement is unprecedented." But Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, was more cautious, saying: "The tone was too positive to be disappointing, *and was too general* to be satisfying."

The Israeli-Syrian track of the Middle East talks — which is vital to agreements between Israel and Lebanon and Jordan — hinges almost entirely on the future of the Golan Heights, the strategic mountain territory seized by Israel during the 1967 Six Day War.

The talks have been stalled for a year as Syria has demanded complete withdrawal, while Israel has insisted on a statement that Syria would "normalise" relations — in other words establish full diplomatic ties, open borders and open trade.

Before yesterday's summit, hopes of a breakthrough were raised when two leftwing Israeli ministers raised for the first time the prospect of a complete withdrawal from the heights. Mr Sarid, whose Meretz party is a junior partner in the Israeli coalition government, had said: "For this kind of peace and for this kind of normalisation, Israel will have to give up its sovereignty over the Golan." A poll of settlers there has shown that more than half had talked about leaving and 11 per cent were seeking new homes.

In Geneva, Mr Assad said that Syria had made a strategic choice to seek "the peace of the brave" with Israel. "In honour we fought, in honour we negotiate, and in honour we shall make peace." He looked forward to a "great, *long peace with Israel*".



"We are ready to take brave steps ... for peace"

Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Prime Minister

The Syrian president's reference to normal relations came at the end of his lengthy post-summit statement and questioned on it further, he said only that he understood the requirements for peace and would respond to those requirements. When Mr Clinton was asked if Mr Assad was offering "full normalisation", he replied: "The short answer *is yes.*"

A senior American official said later that Mr Assad's statement broke new ground and was very significant. "What the Israelis have been waiting to hear is the word 'normal'. The effect that the words will have is to kick forward the talks when they resume in Washington next week."

Mr Assad's statement gave Mr Clinton a big bonus at the end of his eight-day European tour and more than justified his controversial decision to meet the leader of a nation that remains on America's list of states that sponsor terrorism and is therefore subject to trade embargoes.

In response to Mr Assad's demands for improved Syrian-US relations, Mr Clinton agreed to establish a new mechanism for resolving the disputes between them "in detail and openly". The most important of those is Syria's support for terrorist groups, a subject the two leaders discussed for an hour.

Senior American officials said Mr Clinton had specifically raised the question of the Lockerbie bombing, even though America officially blames Libya, not Syria, for the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 five years ago. He "made clear that this was a very serious issue for the US and it was absolutely essential that the Libyan Government *gave up those two people who* are charged with doing it," one official said. "That is an absolute requirement of the US."

Mr Clinton meanwhile stated his desire for a comprehensive Middle East peace — Mr Assad being firmly opposed to Arab states reaching individual accords with Israel as the Palestine Liberation Organisation did. Most of the Palestinian extremists who oppose that deal operate from Syrian territory.

"I told him that I believe Syria is the key to the achievement of an enduring and comprehensive peace that finally will put an end to the conflict between Israel and her Arab neighbours," Mr Clinton said.

Mr Clinton met another of Mr Assad's requirements by stating that Syria's leadership role in the pursuit of Middle East peace was critical. Syria had sought the summit, which will boost Mr Assad's standing in the region, largely to show that it was indispensable to the process and that America should take it more seriously.

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President Assad of Syria being guided by President Clinton into the press conference after their five-hour summit meeting in Geneva yesterday

Cabinet and press at war as Right debates Major's fate

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RELATIONS between Downing Street and the press sank to an all-time low yesterday as a war of words raged between John Major's government and influential Conservative newspapers.

Senior Tories rounded on the press after No 10's dismissal as "malicious fiction" reports in *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail* that Mr Major had vowed to "crucify" right-wing cabinet ministers who had hijacked his back-to-basics campaign for their own ends. Both newspapers responded with strong assertions that the report was true.

Whether or not Mr Major made the comment, the ensuing clash has heightened the debate within the party over the Prime Minister's future. The obvious targets of the alleged comments — John Redwood, Peter Lilley, Michael Portillo, and possibly Michael Howard — appeared yesterday to be prepared to accept Downing Street's denials at face value. However, other right-wingers were not. Some said that whether Mr Major had again attacked the right was almost incidental because his hostility was well known.

"I don't think anybody believes him any more because he's so two-faced. He's all smiles to your face but behind your back he's slagging you off. It had an authentic ring to it. It may have been bravado. That's the kind of chap he is. He plays the tough guy but he is always forced to back down," said one leading right-winger.

David Hunt, the Employment Secretary, said that parts of the media were trying to reduce the campaign to the level of "Whitehall farce". Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 Committee, said that the Prime Minister was the victim of "scurrilous and malicious reporting". But the two newspapers stood by their reports on Saturday of what Mr Major allegedly said two days earlier at a farewell dinner marking the imminent return of Gus O'Donnell, his press secretary, to the Treasury.

As the furore over the place of "family values" in back to basics continued to engulf the Government, rattled ministers postponed publication of a policy document aimed at stopping single mothers automatically jumping the queue for council houses.

The shock waves from the dispute also triggered off a fresh bout of speculation about Mr Major's future with prominent right-wingers privately floating the name of Michael Heseltine as a compromise candidate in a possible future power struggle between left and right.

Accusing the Government of being incompetent and deceitful, John Smith, the Labour leader, said ministers were paying the price for deliberately making scapegoats of single mothers in party conference speeches.

A growing number of right-wingers believe that the financial and sexual scandals of the past three weeks have gravely damaged Mr Major's chances of surviving the ordeal of the council and European elections in the early summer. They are readying themselves for a leadership contest as early as July and some promi-

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Prime Minister faces high risks at Scott enquiry

BY MICHAEL DYNES AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major faces a fresh ordeal today when he appears before Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair to answer gruelling questions about his knowledge of the illicit trade.

With his leadership again under the spotlight, even a slight slip by the Prime Minister risks intensifying doubts about his future and plunging the Government into a new crisis. But Mr Major, who spent the weekend at his Great Stukeley home near Huntingdon reading the relevant Cabinet papers, is confident he will be cleared of any wrongdoing.

The Prime Minister believes his involvement in the decisions about the alleged relaxation of the arms curbs was marginal. In his brief period as Foreign Secretary in 1989, he rejected a proposal to supply Hawk trainer aircraft to Iraq, a decision subsequently endorsed by the Cabinet.

Despite repeated accusations from Labour MPs and other critics that he knew of and sanctioned the decision to relax the guidelines governing arms export to Iraq, no evidence has been found directly implicating him.

The hearing, expected to last all day, will mark the first time a serving Prime Minister has been publically cross-examined about the execution of government policy by a member of the judiciary. Mr Major's evidence will be given in an atmosphere already highly charged as a result of Lord Howe of Aberavon's attack on the legal basis of the enquiry.

Nor have matters been improved by offers of resignation from Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, if they are severely criticised for trying to supress vital evidence in the abortive Matrix Churchill trial. William Waldegrave, a Foreign Office minister at the

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Church turns away divorcee

BY EMMA WILKINS

A DIVORCED man has been asked to leave a church service in front of 100 worshippers to protect the feelings of his former wife.

Michael Sharp, aged 40, who attended the service with his third wife Gillian, said yesterday he wants an apology from elders of the Tanterton Christian Fellowship, a Baptist church near Preston, Lancashire.

Mr Sharp, of Bowlingfield, Lancs, was approached by the pastor's wife, Diane Price, just after taking his seat in the church last Sunday and asked to leave to prevent his meeting his former wife, Anne, and the couple's two daughters, aged nine and 12, who are regular worshippers.

David Price, pastor at the church for ten years, said: "We have the Conservatives telling us about back to basics, and they are right. We want to stand by women and children and protect those in distress.

"We are a church that stands by lone women and children," he said. "For a man to come back to the chuch with his new wife just causes trouble for everyone. We took our decision to protect her; we believe it is the most Christian thing to do."

But Mr Sharp, who recently moved back to Bowlingfield after having separated from his former wife five years ago, said he felt angry and embarrassed. "We were humiliated. It was a very un-Christian attitude," he said.



Mr and Mrs Sharp, who are seeking an apology

Gaidar resignation reveals reform doubts

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

PROPONENTS of rapid change in Russia appear to be in retreat following the resignation yesterday of Yegor Gaidar, the man who devised Russia's radical reforms. A fellow liberal, Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov, strongly indicated he would follow suit.

The moves will embarrass President Yeltsin and also President Clinton, who only two days ago used his Moscow visit to wish Mr Gaidar luck and to urge Russians to back Mr Yeltsin's reform drive.

Mr Gaidar claimed that his plans for restructuring the economy were being hindered by conservatives and implicitly blamed the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, for "dangerous" decisions. On Russian television he said that the Russian leader had known *of his intention for some time.* But his statement, coming immediately after President Clinton's trip, indicates that the government in Moscow is deeply divided over key issues.

Mr Fyodorov said he had lost his taste for work in a government which he portrayed as weak and directionless. "Everyone is being promised money and there are *offers of stronger social* support policies ... but no one says who will pay and how this will happen," he said.

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Tories in turmoil: fresh allegations and another leadership test for Major

Wandsworth dismisses house sale accusations

BY RACHEL KELLY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE MPs and councillors yesterday emphatically denied allegations that Wandsworth Council in southwest London was involved in a housing scandal similar to Westminster City Council.

Wandsworth is facing an enquiry from the district auditor after a complaint from a resident about sales in areas where Conservative councillors have had narrow majorities. Wandsworth Council said, however, that its house sales methods and techniques had been investigated by the district auditor six times since 1983 and been given a clean bill of health on each occasion.

Local Conservatives said that the Wandsworth policy had differed from Westminster's in that it had adopted a borough-wide policy and had not targeted marginal wards.



Sir Paul: "House sales created stable estates"

The accusation of gerrymandering in Westminster is based on council house sales being concentrated in marginal wards to try to create new Tory voters.

Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, who lives in Wandsworth, said the Conservatives carried out a policy of "ethnic cleansing" through house sales in Wandsworth and tutored Westminster in the practice.

Sir Paul Beresford, former leader of Wandsworth Council, and MP for Croydon Central since 1992, said: "The accusation that Peter Hain is making is we've got house sales in marginal seats. He's right, we have got sales in marginal seats. But we've also got them in solid Conservative seats and solid Labour seats. We've got them right across the borough." Sir Paul said the policy of house sales was designed to create more stable estates. "The reason was, experience showed a mix of tenure brought a better stability to the estates, it made them better places to live."

Houses were sold on the basis of need, he said. "If you are homeless you are offered both lets and home sale. The other thing we make sure of is the spread of the types of properties, with the same spread across the borough. Among them were some of the worst properties on the toughest estates."

Sir Paul said that in the 1960s and 1970s the Greater London Council and Wandsworth Council, then Labour, boasted they were going to build the Tories out of Putney. "There was no district auditor or Audit Commission in those days. If ever there was gerrymandering, that was. How Peter Hain has got the audacity to point the finger at us is quite incredible. His accusation doesn't hold water."

Wandsworth has been a Tory borough since 1978. In 1990 it increased its majority of one seat to 35. Sir Paul stood down as council leader in May 1992 after his election to the Commons the month before. He is still a councillor in Wandsworth but will stand down before the borough elections in May.

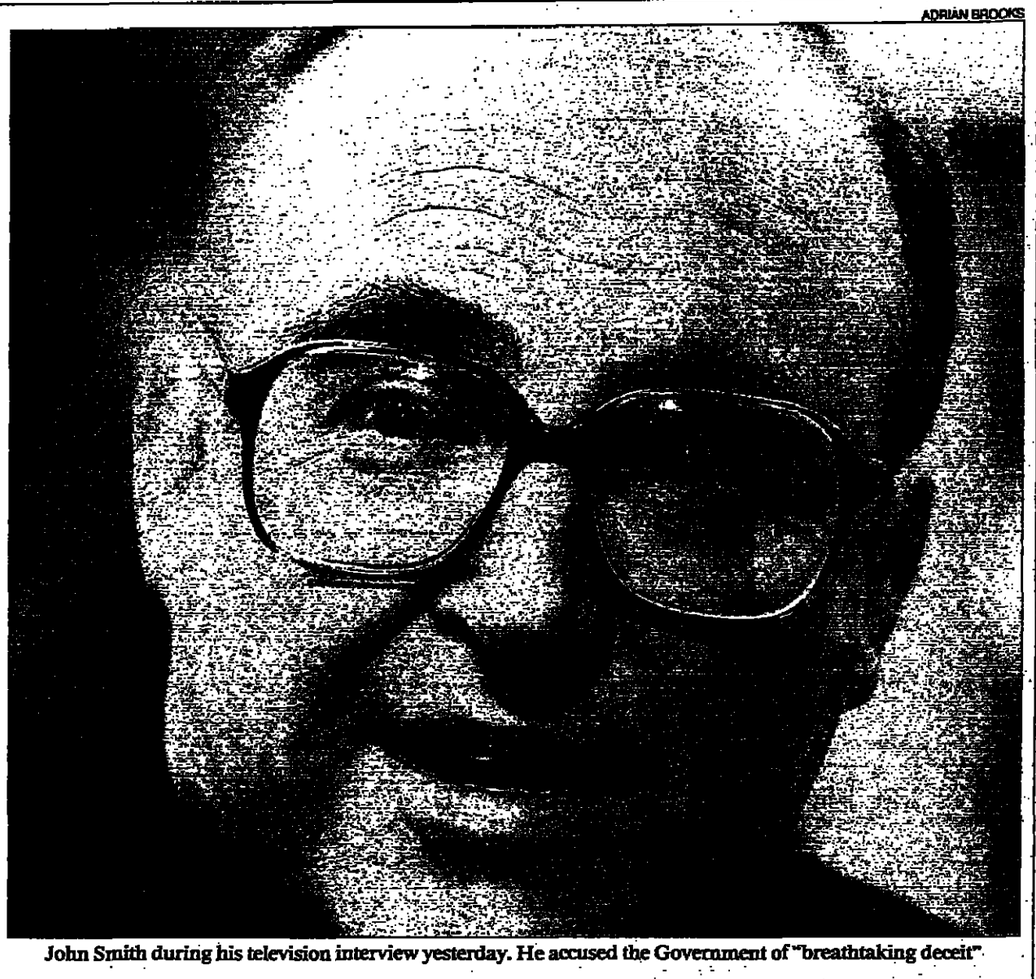
Meanwhile, Westminster City Council confirmed yesterday that it approached 57 local authorities, mainly in the North, to house its homeless families.

The council was answering allegations from Labour MPs that it had tried to flood the North with its homeless. Douglas Henderson, Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne North, said the move was an outrage.

The council said that, in accordance with government guidelines, it approached those councils it knew had an above-average number of empty houses, including Newcastle, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, Darlington, Langbaurgh, Durham City, North Tyneside, Berwick, Harrogate and Sedgefield.

Councils have a statutory duty to house certain categories of homeless people, but the exact way a council discharges its duties, in its own borough or by paying other local authorities to take on its responsibilities, is at the council's discretion.

ADRIAN BROOKS



John Smith during his television interview yesterday. He accused the Government of "breathtaking deceit".

Broken pledges 'make nation cynical'

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government's refusal to take the blame for Britain's difficulties and its readiness to break election pledges were the reasons for the nation's cynicism about politicians, John Smith said yesterday.

In an angry riposte to the widely reported speech by Michael Portillo on Friday, the Labour Leader rejected claims that the chattering classes were to blame for reduced public esteem for national institutions. "Why don't they understand that the cynicism there in public life and about Government today arises from the activities of Government, not some mysterious elite," he said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost*.

The Government was prepared to blame almost anything — the televising of Parliament, the Church, single mothers — before itself, he said. "I think people are very cynical in this country but I know why they're cynical: because they've got an incompetent, ruthless Government in power that deceived them at the last election on crucial issues of policy, and they do not like it."

He had never known of a Government that had won an election on such a set of false promises, or had broken them in so cavalier a way. The Tories had "spectacularly broken all these promises by bringing in, as will happen this year, the biggest tax increases in peacetime in the history of this country," he said. "This is betrayal of public pledges on a scale that hasn't happened before. There has never been such breathtaking arrogance and such breathtaking deceit."

Mr Smith also condemned the attack by Lord Howe of Aberavon on Lord Justice Scott at the arms-to-Iraq enquiry last week. He said that he was staggered by the "arrogant and patronising way" in which Lord Howe had spoken.

Children with one parent no worse off

BY EMMA WILKINS

CHILDREN from one-parent families are not destined to fare worse than those with both, according to a Family Policy Studies Centre report published today.

While existing research suggests that children with one parent do less well at school, the report says that it is impossible to predict outcomes for individual children.

Children with two parents where the home environment is violent or tense are as likely to suffer the consequences in later life as those with one parent, the centre found.

The report, compiled by Louie Burghes, the centre's researcher, and sponsored by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, interprets existing research on children with single parents. Illegitimate children generally fare less well than others, but do not automatically fare better if they later live with both natural parents rather than remaining with one alone.

Many existing reports are based on a government survey that began in 1958 and interviewed thousands of children at four-year intervals, with the most recent in 1991 when they were 33. The survey compares school results, the age at which they enter the job market and their subsequent employment.

"Children who suffer disruption tend to do less well on average, but that does not mean you can predict a poorer outcome for every individual child of lone parents," Ms Burghes said yesterday.

"The disruption could stem from families where there has been violence, conflict or even severe disharmony and you can't necessarily say those children are better off just because their parents stayed together."

Ms Burghes said the 1958 report, commissioned as an investigation into children's health, was the most thorough so far, but was not primarily designed to examine the problems of single parents.

The centre, partly funded by the Department of Health, recommends improvements in child maintenance and social security payments for one-parent families, but says that children in poor two-parent families face the same difficulties. "Limited financial resources may create difficulties for lone parents in caring for their children," the report says. "The outcomes for such children may be little different from children in poor two-parent families."

'Anti-Major' press attacked by editor

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major is the victim of the most hostile and personal hate campaign launched by the press against a Prime Minister in 30 years, a newspaper editor said yesterday. Stewart Steven, editor of London's *Evening Standard*, was supporting claims at the weekend by senior Tory MPs that the press was whipping up a wave of anti-Government sentiment.

Mr Steven, who edited *The Mail on Sunday* for ten years, said: "There is a very personal attack going on against the Prime Minister. It is a full frontal attack. There is a sense of betrayal felt by some sections of the right-wing press that he has not turned out to be 'son of Thatcher' and that is now coming out in reporting. Other papers have jumped on the bandwagon, without really knowing why they are there."

He was speaking after Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the influential 1922 committee of Tory backbenchers, accused newspaper editors of attempting to undermine the position of the Government "by scurrilous and malicious reporting".

David Hunt, the Employment Secretary, said that the media were turning the Government's back to basics policy into a "Whitehall farce". Mr Steven said reports in *The Sun* and in his sister paper, the *Daily Mail*, that Mr Major had said he would "f****** crucify" Cabinet right-wingers were unsubstantiated and yet had been treated by virtually every other paper as fact.

Mr Steven, who attended the Downing Street dinner at which the Prime Minister was supposed to have made the remarks, said: "Newspapers do not just reflect public opinion. I rather think they influence it."

His remarks follow a series of highly critical articles about John Major in the Sunday newspapers. Noting that the Government's problems over its back to basics policy appeared to have been interpreted by Mr Major as no more than a "little flurry", *The Sunday Times* said: "Such complacency verges on the criminally negligent."

The Observer said: "If the Prime Minister hasn't got the stomach to rule his party, he hasn't got the right to run the country." *The Sunday Telegraph* said: "If the Government were strong, most of the mud thrown at it would not stick. It is not strong. Despite signs of economic recovery, it seems incompetent."

Prime Minister faces risks at enquiry

Continued from page 1

height of the affair, joined them yesterday by saying on BBC television that he would step down if his conduct were proved to be improper but not if it were subjected to only minor criticism. "I am certain in my own mind that I did not behave in a dishonest way," he said.

Mr Major will be questioned about the operation of the 1985 Howe arms export guidelines during the five months he was Foreign Secretary between July and November 1989. Lord Justice Scott will want to know about the briefings he received from Foreign Office officials, and if he was informed of the "modification" in export policy that seems to have taken place after December 1988.

The guidelines originally prohibited the sale of all lethal equipment to Iran and Iraq, and "any defence equipment which would significantly enhance the capability of either side to prolong or exacerbate the conflict". After the 1988 Iran-Iraq ceasefire, however, they were modified to allow exports of more "non-lethal" equipment such as the machine tools made by Matrix Churchill, which were used to make missiles and shells. Parliament, however, was not notified of this "shift".

Mr Waldegrave told the enquiry in October that the modification did not amount to a change of policy. Last week, however, Lord Howe appeared to accept that it was, although he insisted that it was a "sensible decision, arrived at in good faith".

Mr Major will also be questioned about a series of letters he wrote to MPs explaining the Government's arms export policy after he became Prime Minister in November 1990, four months after President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. The enquiry will want to establish if the government was running two policies on defence export sales, one in private and the other for public consumption.

Letters, page 15

Battle lines drawn up as Major takes on the right-wingers

Continued from page 1

nent figures said yesterday that Mr Heseltine might stand a better chance of stopping Kenneth Clarke than Michael Portillo, their preferred choice.

The latest bout of internal Tory turmoil was triggered by reports in *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail* quoting Mr Major as saying on the margins of the dinner: "I'm going to f****** crucify the right for what they have done and this time I will have the party behind me." The dinner was attended by 32 senior journalists, politicians, Downing Street officials and others, none of whom has confirmed hearing the remark.

However, Trevor Kavanagh, political editor of *The Sun*, who was not at the dinner, said on BBC radio yesterday that he stood 100 per cent behind his report. "The source we have is absolutely reliable." Tony Newton, the Commons leader, who was present, said that Downing Street had spoken to all the guests and "nobody has been found who was present who is prepared to say he did hear such remarks". In a comment underlying widespread Tory alarm at the way once-loyal newspapers are criticising the Prime Minister, Mr Newton added: "Some of the ways the press have treated things in recent days fell a good deal short of what is desirable."

Sir Marcus said it was unbelievable that the Prime Minister could have said he was out to "crucify" the right. "What it does show is that certain newspapers and editors will use any means at their disposal to undermine the position of our Prime Minister and bring the Government down by scurrilous and malicious reporting."

After consulting Mr Major, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, has decided to delay publication of a green paper proposing that single mothers should lose their automatic right to council houses under the homelessness legislation.

Tory MPs welcomed the tactical retreat with one saying that "nothing will be looked at rationally now". But if Mr Gummer and Mr Major were to abandon the policy, they would face a fight in Cabinet. Ministers pointed out yesterday that the policy had been agreed in cabinet committee and announced at the party conference.

A new sex affair came to light yesterday when Gary Waller, the Tory MP for Keighley, admitted that he was the father of an illegitimate boy by a Commons secretary.

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Leading article, page 15
Graham Searjeant, page 34

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Loyalist 'doomsday tactics' drawn up

Loyalist paramilitaries have reportedly drawn up a "doomsday" plan of action against a British withdrawal from Northern Ireland. The plan, said to have been conceived over several years by the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), includes details of religious trends in many parts of the province.

The Belfast-based *Sunday Life* newspaper yesterday published a series of maps showing four options on the territory the UDA believes it could hold, what would be given up and what might be fought for. In essence, the border would be redrawn, with Protestants consolidating themselves in a smaller Ulster in the north-east. The plan suggests that two or probably three of Northern Ireland's six counties would be lost, and considers options such as taking hostage Roman Catholics living in the east of the province as "bargaining chips" for the release of Protestants trapped in the surrendered west. Neither the Northern Ireland Office nor the security forces would comment on the blueprint.

Whitelaw attacks Bill

Viscount Whitelaw, the former Home Secretary, will launch a damaging attack on the Government's plans to restructure police authorities when the Police Bill starts its second reading in the Lords tomorrow (Jonathan Prynn writes). His attack will focus on the proposed increase in the Home Secretary's powers over the authorities. His intervention could leave the Government facing defeat in the Lords, where it is already in trouble over the Education Bill and is expected to face stern opposition when the Criminal Justice Bill arrives in the Upper House later in the year.

Fears for rail link

London's future as a world class capital will be threatened if the £2.5 billion CrossRail project between Paddington and Liverpool Street is not built, 11 leading businessmen have told the Government. In a letter to *The Times*, they say they fear that unless the private Bill promoting the link passes through the next stage of a Commons committee, on January 25, it might be abandoned. John MacGregor, the Transport Secretary, is expected at this week's Cabinet meeting to make a last appeal for public money for the project in the face of Treasury opposition. Letters, page 15

Lecturers vote on strike

Lecturers at further education colleges are to be balloted about possible national strike action over moves to impose longer hours and shorter holidays. A spokeswoman for the NATFHE union said after a meeting of regional representatives in London yesterday that staff were "furious" at refusals to agree to a national contract for lecturers.

Negotiations broke down last month when employers rejected counter proposals by the union. The union's special conference will meet again on Saturday to decide on a possible series of short strikes from February 17.

Rape suspect charged

A man accused of 30 sex attacks over 13 years has been remanded in custody. Kevin Lakeman, 31, single, unemployed and of no fixed address, was arrested in Sunderland on Friday. He was remanded until Wednesday when he appeared before the city's magistrates on Saturday. He is charged with 12 rapes, 14 attempted rapes and four other acts of indecency between December 1981 and January this year. He was arrested after an 18-year-old woman was attacked and raped three times at knifepoint earlier this month. His alleged victims all live in the area.

Police hurt in race clash

Seven police officers were hurt and more than 16 people arrested when members of the Anti-Nazi League clashed with extreme rightwingers trying to hold a concert in London. Nine people, some from Belgium and Germany, were charged with public order offences. A 19-year-old man from Southampton was charged with assault after an incident in which a policewoman suffered a broken hand. Also, more than 30 people were questioned by police after skinheads wearing Nazi armbands damaged a Greenpeace bookshop in Nottingham on Saturday afternoon.

Reporter hurt in crash



The television reporter Roger Cook, left, is in hospital after a motorway accident. Cook, 49, was discharged after tests at Birmingham General Hospital. He later booked into a private hospital in Edgbaston, where his condition yesterday was described as stable. Central TV said that Cook, who was a passenger in a car hit from behind on the M6 on Friday, had a sore back and bruising.

Overdose man dies

A 24-year-old man who has been in a persistent vegetative state for more than two years died 48 hours after a High Court decision to allow doctors to stop feeding him. The man, identified only as Patient S, had suffered acute brain damage after a drug overdose in 1991. He died on Saturday at Cossham Hospital, Bristol. The court had been told that a feeding tube was accidentally dislodged from his stomach on Monday and that it would require surgery to replace it. The judges granted an application on behalf of his doctors not to reconnect the tube.

Antarctic voyage ends

Four Britons in an open boat have crossed the Southern Ocean in a voyage that matched the exploits 78 years ago of the Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. His epic voyage, which took 17 days, was mounted in 1916 to raise help for his failed trans-Antarctic expedition, which had abandoned its ship *Endurance*, trapped in pack ice. Trevor Potts, 43, and Victoria Brown, 43, of Morpeth, Northumberland, and Chris Smith, 41, of Betws-y-coed, and Robert Egelstaff, 44, of Cwm Penmachno, Gwynedd, were resting with the British Antarctic Survey on South Georgia.

Stowaway sees four friends perish in ship's metal tomb

BY RICHARD DUCE

A ROMANIAN stowaway anxious to start a new life in the West told police yesterday how he saw his four friends die inside a ship's sealed cargo container.

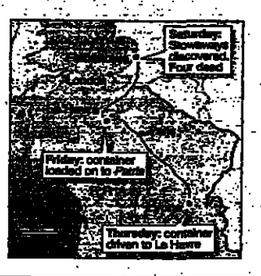
The bodies of the men, who appear to have suffocated, were discovered shortly before the vessel docked at Felixstowe, Suffolk, on its way to the United States. An inquest will open today.

The survivor could give only brief details of their journey to police after he was treated in hospital. He told immigration officials that he and his friends had hoped to reach America. One theory last night was that they were persuaded to embark on the venture by people exploiting economic refugees from Eastern Europe.

The bodies of the four men, who were aged between 20 and 40, were found when the *Patria* docked on Saturday afternoon after sailing from Le Havre in northern France. The survivor had alerted the crew by banging on the walls of the container, which measured 40ft by 8ft by 8ft. He was gasping for air when he was released from the metal tomb.

Port officials discovered small amounts of food, several bottles of water and a little spare clothing in the container before it was sealed for examination by police and immigration officials. The 1,000-tonne ship was later allowed to sail after the rest of the 90 containers on board had been searched.

The shocked and confused survivor has been seen by officials from the Romanian embassy, who are trying to contact relatives of the dead men. He has applied for leave to stay in the UK and last night the Home Office said his position would be considered.



It is unclear whether the men gained access to the container, which was half filled with crates containing 18 tonnes of car tyre fibre, at Le Havre or when it was loaded for the journey from Lyons to the coast.

The container was placed on the top tier of three, just below the hatch, in the hold of the *Patria*, which is registered in Limasol, Cyprus, and operated by the Bugsier Line, based in Germany.

Derek Harrington, the managing director of Felixstowe port, said it did not appear that the men had locked themselves inside the container, so someone else had been responsible for dropping the securing bar that sealed them inside.

He said that he had known cases of stowaways surviving inside containers for far longer than the 16-hour Channel crossing. An airhole is understood to have been drilled into the container, which was to have been unloaded and forwarded to Galveston, Texas.

Mr Harrington said there was no evidence of a fight or struggle. He could not speculate on the possibility that engine fumes had permeated into the container or that the inside had been treated with chemicals.

"I've seen the one chap who survived and nobody would surely want to take money from someone who looked so undernourished," he said. "By the time he got out of the container, he was gasping for air.

"Anyone locked up for 18 hours and seeing and hearing their companions dying must have gone through a terrible experience. We have seen an increase in the number of poor and deprived people stowing away to try to find a better life in a new country."

Last year, 80 people were detained by immigration officials at Felixstowe, which handles more than 1.6 million containers a year and is one of Europe's busiest ports.

Duke accompanies Duchess to Mass

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Duchess of Kent attended her first public Mass as a Roman Catholic yesterday with her husband the Duke at her side.

The Duchess, who was received into the Church of Rome on Friday, accepted an invitation from Lord Camoys to join the congregation in the private chapel at Stonor Park, his Oxfordshire estate. Reporters were barred from the chapel.

The Duke and Duchess sat with Lord Camoys, deputy chairman of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, in the choir gallery overlooking the 60-strong congregation, which included estate workers and other members of the public.

The Mass was conducted by Father Gerard Egan, parish priest of St Edmund Campion church in nearby Watlington, from whom the Duchess took Communion.

Mary Loughnane, one of the worshippers, said: "I am thrilled the Duchess has joined our little congregation. We had no idea she was coming until she walked in. It is wonderful that the Duke came too. It is a marvellous show of support. We hope to see them both at Stonor regularly."

In the past when the Kents were at their Oxfordshire country home of Crocker End House, they used to be seen at the Anglican church of St Botloph's in the village of Swyncombe.

☐ Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother missed church at Sandringham yesterday because she is recovering from a bad cold.



CHRIS MOORE

Karen Mulder models for Lacroix's summer collection in Paris yesterday

Lacroix reworks romantic past

CHRISTIAN Lacroix unveiled a summer haute couture collection yesterday so steeped in history that it would almost have been possible to believe some designs were the genuine article.

His main inspiration was the Directoire period of 1795-99, when ladies dressed like shepherdesses, all high-waists, décolleté and tight puff sleeves.

But as well as reworking those historical influences, Lacroix promised a return to the origins of his passion for couture. He used to enjoy putting together garish colour and fabric combinations, which veered on the vulgar. When he goes for the same now — putting a bright plaid over a sizzling floral print — it looks entirely right.

Outstanding in his latest lines were jackets nipped into the waist with stiff little peplums or kick pleats behind, and stand-away collars and double revers to emphasise the décolleté. Models slipped them off to reveal bare backs or sheaths draped from the shoulder into a plunging "V" at the waist. Leg-of-mutton sleeves and ruffles were other neglected fashions that he plundered.

Lacroix is at the polar extreme from the current threadbare tramp look. His clothes are works of art that will surely last, perhaps even to inspire others as he has found inspiration in the past.

Fashion, page 13

Youths try to drown PC after glue attack

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

TWO teenagers squirted glue into a policeman's face and pushed him into a flooded canal yesterday.

PC Steven Thorne, blinded and in much pain, managed to struggle to the bank and pull himself out of the water after the attack in Hungerford, Berkshire, at 3.30am.

Unable to use his water-damaged radio, he crawled to a telephone box to alert police. The attack, which police are treating as attempted murder, happened when the Kennet and Avon canal had swollen to twice its normal size after heavy rain.

PC Thorne, 32, is waiting to discover whether his sight has been damaged permanently. Despite having been released from the Princess Margaret Hospital at Swindon, he is unable to open one eye.

Supt Ian Hutchison, area police commander, described the attack as vicious and unprovoked. Police said the attackers were scrawny white males wearing dark clothing.

PC Thorne's wife Geena spoke of the attack from their home near Andover, Hampshire. "It was our worst nightmare come true," she said. "The first I knew of it was when the police brought Steven back from the hospital. Steven's eyes were very puffy and he could only just open one of them.

"When I heard what had happened I just couldn't believe it.

"I don't know how someone could do that to a fellow human being. He was very disorientated when he came home and in a lot of pain from his eyes. They are completely covered in glue and some of it had gone inside the eye. He is still in shock."

PC Thorne, a father of two who joined Hungerford police two and a half years ago, was attacked while on lone patrol along the high street. He had been told to watch for suspects who might be carrying out a series of burglaries in the town.

The attack happened 100 yards from where PC Roger Brereton, another Thames Valley policeman, was shot and killed by Michael Ryan during the Hungerford massacre that claimed 16 lives in August 1987.

Success and The Times

ANOTHER demonstration of the appeal of *The Times* to people of power and influence has been given in a new study by one of Britain's leading market researchers.

The Audit Bureau of Circulation showed this weekend that *The Times* was the most successful national newspaper in Britain last year. Sales in December, at 439,327, were up 17 per cent on December 1992, the highest increase recorded by any daily or Sunday paper.

Now Richard Webber, managing director of CCN Marketing, which helps advertisers sell to their markets and whose clients include Britain's biggest banks and High Street retailers, has shown that *The Times* is the favourite newspaper of the most powerful sections of Britain.

CCN has now sorted Britons into categories. Some are "Bijou Homemakers". Some are "Clever Capitalists". According to CCN, *The Times* is the most popular newspaper among four categories representing the most influential people in the country.

■ Among the "Chattering Classes" — the category for opinion-formers, mainly concentrated in Greater London and working in the arts, media, politics and education — readership of *The Times* is five times the norm.

■ Among "Clever Capitalists" — typically directors of their own companies living in the Home Counties — readership of *The Times* is more than four times the norm.

■ Among "Corporate Careerists" — men and women working in big companies, living in the Home Counties and Cheshire — readership of *The Times* is twice the norm.

■ In the "Gentrified Villages" of Gloucestershire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey and Sussex, *The Times* again attracts more than twice the norm.

Sales of *The Times* are now 137,000 ahead of *The Independent* and 50,000 ahead of *The Guardian* — and according to the National Readership Survey, readership of *The Times*, up by 13 per cent between June and November, has increased by more than any other quality daily.

Suicidal stepfather shoots girl of 15

BY JENNY KNIGHT

A GUN club member who shot his 15-year-old stepdaughter in the head before killing himself was a drunken bully who made the teenager's life a misery, her boy friend's family said yesterday.

Samantha Hitchens was in intensive care at Newcastle General Hospital yesterday after being hit with a single bullet from a pistol fired by David Gregory, 43, of Cramlington, Northumberland.

Samantha had been the girl friend of Stephen Clough for three years and had told his family of difficulties with her stepfather. The Cloughs said that Mr Gregory had often threatened to kill her and subjected her to daily abuse.

Stephen's father Ian, 39, said: "Dave Gregory will not be mourned by us. He made Samantha's life hell. My son hated him for what he put her through.

"He was an unpredictable character. He always had guns around him and drank far too much."

Samantha was found in a bedroom at the home she shared with Mr Gregory, her mother Pam and sister Amanda, 17.

Friends said yesterday that she had feared returning home on Friday. They said that Mr Gregory had refused to allow her friends into the home and that he played pranks such as turning off the electricity when she was drying her hair or taking a shower.

After the shooting, Mr Gregory, 43, drove 70 miles to a pub at Burnmouth, on the Scottish border, and said: "I've got a gun and I've just murdered someone." He then returned to his car.

The landlord called police while drinkers hid in the cellar. Negotiators tried to persuade Mr Gregory to lay down his gun and leave the car. Instead he killed himself with the same gun he had used on Samantha.

It is believed that he had telephoned Samantha's mother to tell her that he believed he had killed the girl.

MPs question law chief on drug baron's freedom

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR will today call for a statement from Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, to explain reports that a leading drug baron was allowed to go free because of his role as a police informant.

John Morris, the shadow Attorney-General, will raise the issue in the Commons today during Attorney-General's Questions.

He said: "I shall be asking the Attorney-General to make a full statement on his knowledge of this case and that of his office and of his parliamentary private secretary," he said. Sir Nicholas's PPS is Tim Devlin, the MP for Stockton South.

Mr Morris was responding to reports in *The Observer* yesterday that a police operation to trap a Colombian drug cartel was blown after Customs officials arrested the dealer in June 1992. The case against the dealer was dropped after drugs squad officers reportedly threatened to testify on his behalf.

The undercover operation meant that a consignment of drugs, hidden in lead ingots, was carried from Venezuela to Britain in cargo ships by a front company reportedly financed by the CIA.

The drugs were allowed into Britain because British police and the CIA wanted more intelligence on those involved in the cartel.

Labour MPs yesterday called on Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to launch an enquiry into the case and into the use of police informants in undercover drug operations. David Young, the Labour MP for Bolton South East, said he was particularly worried about allowing drugs into the country for the sake of surveillance.

He said: "What causes me extreme concern about the fact that this amount of drugs was allowed into Britain apparently because of a cock-up is that a high proportion of crime in Britain is drugs-related."

Andrew MacKinlay, Labour MP for Thurrock, said he would table Commons questions about the operation. "There is not much point in having these grandiose plans if they are going to end in disaster.

"I think the whole strategy should be reconsidered. It would plainly have been wiser to stop this consignment at the port of entry because if you block the supply you will kill the racket."

New name on garden seat

BY JOHN YOUNG

ERIC Robson, the television and radio presenter, has been appointed chairman of *Gardeners' Question Time*. He will take the helm of the Radio 4 series from Dr Stefan Buczacki in April.

Mr Robson, 47, owns a smallholding and lists horticulture and agriculture among his interests. He has presented *The Allotment Show* on BBC Television and has been associated with *File on 4*, the Radio 4 investigative programme. Also, he is a regular BBC commentator on State occasions such as Remembrance services at the Cenotaph.

The appointment of an experienced broadcaster with a horticultural background will be greeted with relief by the listeners, which total more than one million a week, many of whom feared that the format was about to be radically overhauled.

The BBC was besieged with protests last year when production of the programme, which has been running for 46 years, was contracted out to an independent company, Taylor Made Films. The chairman of the company, Trevor Taylor, disclosed that he was "not a gardener" and suggested that it was time to revamp the format to attract a younger audience. He was considering a "raft of innovations", and said that without moving it gently forward, the life of the programme would be limited. The changes may include taking the programme out of local gardening societies occasionally.



Robson: taken on green mantle

The retirement of the show's long-time chairman Clay Jones because of ill-health was seen as a further portent of unwelcome change. But his replacement is a safe choice.

Mr Taylor said: "Eric is exactly the sort of person I have been looking for. He combines the skills of an experienced broadcaster with those of an active and knowledgeable gardener." Michael Green, controller of Radio 4, said he was "delighted that Eric is taking over one of the most important chairmanships on Radio 4".

Dr Buczacki, who has written many books on gardening, was involved in an unsuccessful bid to produce the show. He was formerly a panellist, and took over when Mr Jones retired.

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A Commons gagged by guillotined debates and curtailed powers cannot speak up for democracy

The smother of Parliament

John Garrett fears excessive government power over the legislature is creating bad laws and restricting civil liberties

The Times Essay

As the legislation announced in the Queen's Speech is presented to Parliament, you can bet that most of it will be cobbled together at the last minute, will be badly drafted, will be unintelligible to all but specialist lawyers and when enacted will prove to be technically defective.

Parliament spends nearly a third of its time considering government legislation, but much of that time is wasted on ill-informed and repetitive bickering rather than on analysis and evaluation. Though a procedure exists to enable a legislative committee to examine ministers and expert witnesses on the intended purposes and likely consequences of a Bill, the Government has allowed its use only five times in 15 years.

When a controversial Bill makes slow progress, the Government often cuts discussion by a guillotine motion (used six times in the 1950s and 43 times between 1979 and 1990) so that important parts of it are never considered.

Once a Bill is enacted, it is virtually unknown for there to be any review of how it works in practice. In a typical year, some 2,500 pages of primary legislation are considered by both Houses in general debate and in committee, but some 10,000 pages of secondary or delegated legislation are enacted without discussion, or are the subject of brief debates in which no amendment is allowed. The use of delegated legislation is increasing and much of it gives the Government sweeping powers in, for example, deciding entitlements to social security. We can add to all that the flood of European Community directives, which usually get only the most cursory examination.

Some critically important decisions on national policy and public administration are never endorsed by Parliament but are simply enacted by proclamation, employing the royal prerogative. This ancient device is used to make international treaties, to declare war, to regulate the Civil Service and to make hundreds of public appointments.

The conduct of legislation exemplifies the overwhelming dominance of Government over Parliament. In every function of Parliament, Government throws its weight, not only against opposition, but against enquiry, scrutiny and discussion.

The machinery of Parliament has lagged way behind changes in the machinery of Government. Though most select committees have been remarkably effective in recent years in calling ministers to account, they are hopelessly under-resourced, given the proliferation of bureaucracy. Select committees are organised to examine the workings of some 20 Departments but not the activities of what will soon be 20 ministerial policy units, 150 or more executive units or agencies, and countless trusts, boards and quangos.

In recent years, there has been growing concern, mostly outside Parliament, about the encroachment by the Government on civil liberties. The absence of a Bill of Rights has meant that principles that have long been settled in other democracies — the right to strike, the powers of local government and of the Upper House, the rights of public servants and the powers of the judiciary — are here disposed at the whim of some minister.

It may be that our combination of powers — having the executive drawn from members of the legislature — is inevitably a formula for a weak Parliament (it may not do the executive all that much good, either). When over a hundred members of the largest party are in government and almost as many in the main opposition party hope to be in government soon, the impetus for strengthening Parliament is likely to be modest. The result is a system loaded against democracy.

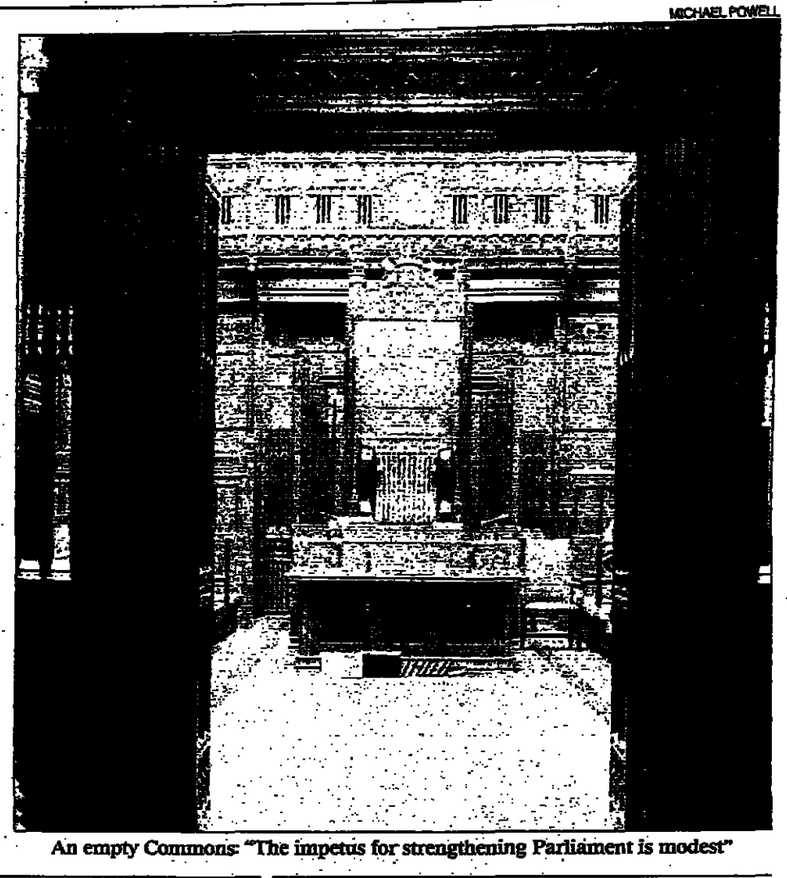
A Parliament with visionary leadership and a will to reform could make some useful changes. One requirement is substantially more resources for research and analytical back-up for select committees, and for a Department of the Opposition.

The independence and power of the Speaker need to be developed so that she, or he, has the right to decide on the timetabling of Bills and to insist on a more protracted consideration of legislation that might limit or reduce citizens' rights.

There is much more to be done: the enactment of a Bill of Rights (coupled with the reform of the judiciary), the reform of the Upper House, the establishment of links with the European Parliament, the curtailing of outside employment of members — all these reforms could be within the grasp of a progressive and assertive House of Commons.

☐ *John Garrett is Labour MP for Norwich South and the author of* Westminster: Does Parliament Work? *(Gollancz, £7.99)*

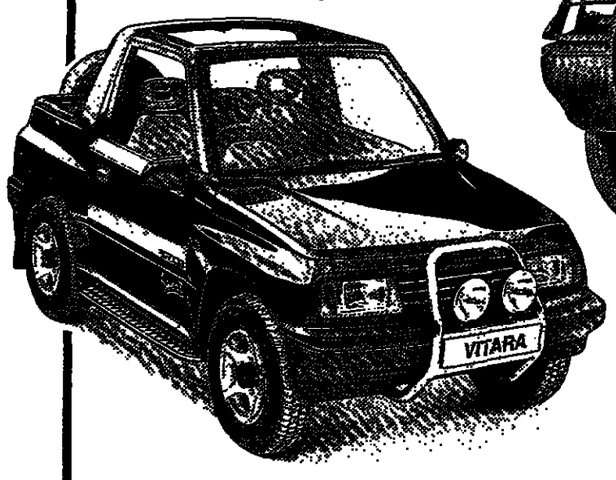
MICHAEL POWELL



An empty Commons: "The impetus for strengthening Parliament is modest"

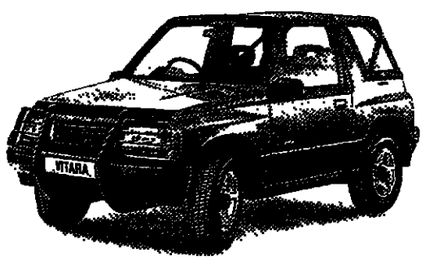
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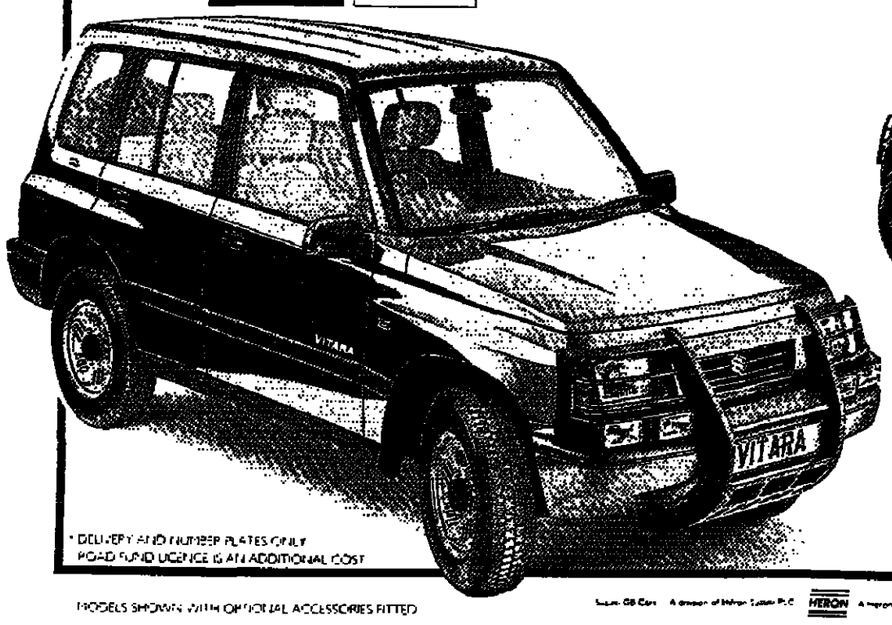
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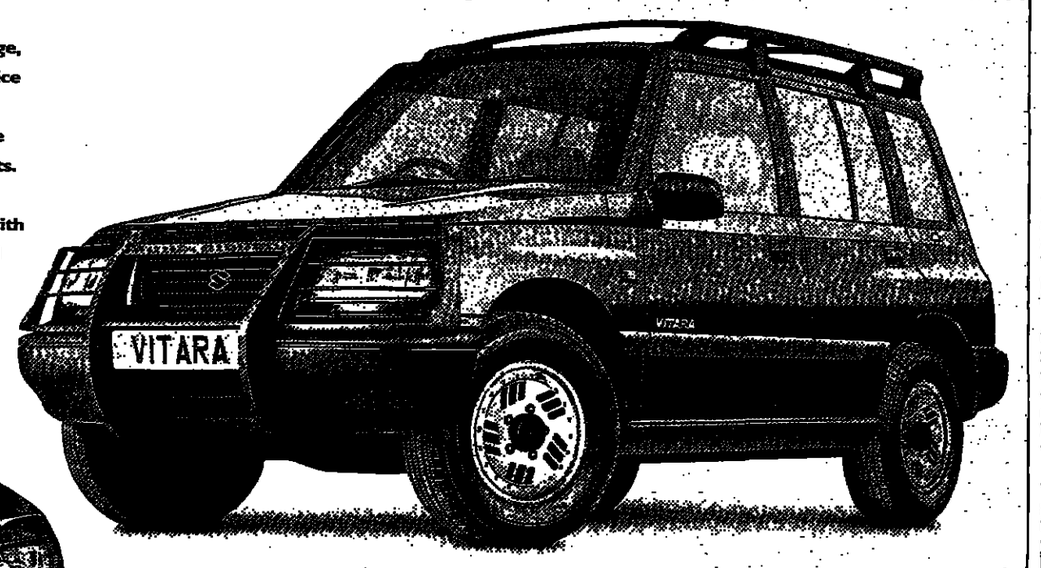
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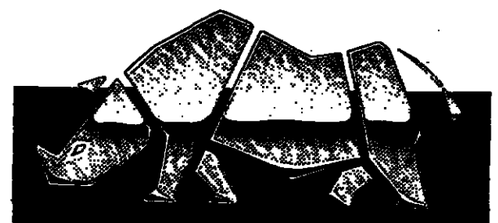
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Loving Britons find favour with fidelity

By Marianne Curphey

MOST people favour monogamy and almost 80 per cent regard extra-marital sex as wrong, according to the biggest survey of British sexual behaviour.

Of 20,000 people questioned, fewer than one in 20 married men and fewer than one in 50 married women claim to have had more than one sexual partner in the year before the interviews, which were carried out in 1990-91.

Although the average age at which women lose their virginity has dropped from 21 in the early 1950s to 17, few people report very high numbers of partners and most young people prefer "serial monogamy" — they stop sleeping with one person before starting to sleep with another.

The study has been funded by the Wellcome Trust, an independent charity, after Margaret Thatcher's Government refused to give the four women academics involved the funding they needed when they applied for backing in 1989. The study was intended to help doctors and health educators to stop the spread of Aids and will be published later this month.

The survey, serialised by the *Independent on Sunday*, shows that younger people are more likely to use condoms and that their use has risen sharply since the mid-1980s. Among those who lost their virginity towards the end of the survey (1990-91), up to 60 per cent had used condoms. This, the study says, indicates that public education about Aids has had some success.

William Rees-Mogg, page 14

Shot man found dying in street

One man was shot dead and another wounded by a gunman in Leicester yesterday. The 25-year-old victim died from a chest wound.

Police believe the same handgun, which has not been recovered, was used to shoot Denver Hackshaw, 21. Mr Hackshaw was in a stable condition at Leicester Royal Infirmary, where detectives were waiting to interview him.

The dead man was found lying injured in the road on the Highfields estate at 5.45am. He was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital. Mr Hackshaw had staggered into a taxi office and raised the alarm.

Carjack case

A woman who faked her own kidnap by claiming she was carjacked in Cardiff and forced to drive 300 miles at knifepoint has escaped prosecution for wasting police time. South Wales police claim the two-week hunt for her "abductor" cost £500,000.

Flying visit

Graham Jones, 34, will not face further charges after stealing an aircraft and flying to France while on 72-hour leave from prison to have marriage counselling.

Rape warning

Women in Nottingham are being warned not to walk home alone after a third rape in the city in two weeks.

Bond winners

National Savings Premium Bond prize winners are: £100,000, number 9WF 124348, location of winner, Swansea (value of holding £202); £50,000, 32FF 177927, Derbyshire (£10,500); £25,000, 3DW 788546, Derbyshire (£15).



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Fide Championship

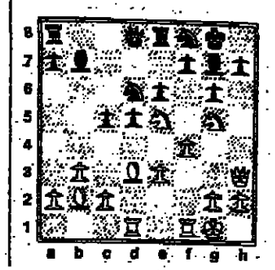
THE first knock-out stage for the Fide Championship started yesterday in Wijkaan Zee, Holland. My prediction for the ultimate winner is either the Indian grandmaster Vishy Anand or Britain's Michael Adams.

The game that follows sees Anand defeating his opponent from the first round from an earlier tournament.

White: Artur Yusupov
Black: Vishy Anand
Linares 1991

We join the game just as Black decides to provoke a crisis.

Diagram for position after White's 16th move



16	...		f6
17	Nxh7		Nxh7
18	Nxg6		Qc7
19	Rf3		Ne4
20	Bxe4		dxe4
21	Rg3		Rad8
22	Rxd8		Qxd8
23	Qg4		Qd5
24	b4		Qf5
25	Qd1		Qd5
26	Qg4		Qf5
27	Qd1		Qd5
28	Qe2		Bc8
29	h5		Kf7
30	Qg4		Ng5
31	fxg5		f5
32	Qe2		Bxb2
33	c4		Qd6
34	Qxb2		e5
35	Rh3		f4
36	Rh4		fxe3
37	Kh2		Bf5
38	Qe2		Qd2
39	Qf1		Ke6
40	Rxe4		Bxe4

White resigns

White's checks soon run out.

Pairings

The match pairings are as follows. I have given each player's Fide rating as at January 1.

Timman (Holland) 2620 v Lautier (France) 2625; Van der Sterren (Holland) 2605 v Kamsky (USA) 2695; Khalifman (Russia) 2660 v Salov (Russia) 2685; Anand (India) 2715 v Yusupov (Germany) 2665; Adams (England) 2660 v Gelfand (Belorussia) 2685; Kramnik (Russia) 2710 v Yudasin (Israel) 2625.

Winning Move, page 36

Files on 'Nazi massacre' to be released

BY MICHAEL DYNES, WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

SECRET files on the investigation into a German SS general accused of the massacre of more than 80 British PoWs will be released at the Public Record Office on Wednesday.

The 22 files to be released by the Defence Ministry contain all of the information collected by Allied war crimes investigators in 1945-46 on Wilhelm Mohnke.

Gen Mohnke, 82, has been identified by witnesses and named in Parliament as the officer who ordered the massacre of British PoWs at Wormhoudt near Dunkirk, and two other atrocities.

In May 1940, PoWs from the Royal Warwickshire and Cheshire regiments were frog-marched into a barn at a farm in Wormhoudt, pelted with grenades and sprayed with machinegun fire. But a dozen of the PoWs survived, four of whom are still living.

Gen Mohnke was not prosecuted at the Nuremberg war trial because he was captured by the Red Army. The case was virtually forgotten when he was released in the 1950s, and he pursued a business career in Germany.

The decision to release the documents was announced by Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, in a letter to the all-party parliamentary war crimes group last month. They were supposed to remain secret until 2021.

Mr Rifkind's announcement came days before legal authorities in the German state of Lübeck announced there was insufficient evidence to prosecute Gen Mohnke. He has been described as "the senior surviving member of Nazi Germany", and had been under investigation since 1988 for his role at Wormhoudt, the killing of several dozen Canadian PoWs at Normandy in June 1944, and of hundreds of American PoWs in Ardennes in December 1944.

The Government has never commented about the integrity of the German enquiry into Gen Mohnke, which included examination of the British files. However, Mr Rifkind told Lord Merlyn-Rees, chairman of the war crimes group, he was eager for the Government to disclose its evidence against Gen Mohnke.

Jeff Rooker, the Labour MP who first gave prominence to the allegations against Gen Mohnke in Parliament in 1988, will study the files when they are released. He will be accompanied by Bert Evans and Alf Tombs, two of the Wormhoudt survivors.

Rocket secrecy ends

A BOOK by the novelist H. E. Bates on the German flying bomb attacks on Britain in the Second World War, commissioned by the Air Ministry but rejected, is to be published on June 13, 50 years after the first "doodlebug" appeared over Kent (John Young writes).

The manuscript was discovered in the Public Record Office by Bob Ogley while researching his book, *Doodlebugs and Rockets*. He said yesterday it had probably been suppressed because Bates insisted on telling the truth about the extent of civilian casualties. Between June 1944 and March 1945, more than 5,000 people in London and the Home Counties were killed by the V1 pilotless monoplanes and nearly 3,000 by V2 long-range rockets.

Bates wrote that the people of Kent "never knew from one moment to another whether the meal they were eating ... might be their last. They said goodbye to their children as they went to school in the morning and never knew if they would see them again."

Flying Bombs Over England will be launched by Froglets Publications, of Westerham, Kent, at the Biggin Hill Air Fair.



MARTIN BEDDALL

Joan Harrington surrounded by the traditional clutter of pawned goods at her pawnbroker's shop at Islington, north London

Pawn shops learn upper-class art of broking

BY IAN MURRAY

■ The sign over the pawnbroker's shop may not be so common in the high street as the most discreet of traders find themselves serving a different kind of customer

PAWNBROKERS are doing a roaring trade this month with members of the National Association of Pawnbrokers reporting business up by a fifth over last year.

January is always the busiest time of year for visits to "uncle" to "pop" some jewellery to pay for bills built up over Christmas. Nowadays, however, school fees, telephone bills and credit card debts are likely to be more pressing than the milkman.

The association estimates that about 10,000 people a day are now borrowing money against valuables in this most discreet of trades. The annual sum being lent through the 350 or so shops across the country is about £400 million, giving the pawnbroker network the turnover of a small building society.

Harvey Bell-Roberts, assistant secretary of the association, says: "Our shops are often more like a bank with a potted plants, tellers and counters. The old scruffy image has gone, along with the poor customers who used to pawn their linen once a week to pay the bills. Now that the social security looks after the needy, we find an ever-growing trade among the middle and upper classes. Small traders use us to raise the cash needed to pay their VAT. You can always find a few coronets in our members' vaults — after all, what else can you do with them between coronations and state openings of Parliament?"

The new age pawnbroker asks no questions and exercises the utmost discretion. His chief concern is to ensure that the item being pawned is not stolen property. Unlike the bank manager, he does not ask how the money is to be spent.

Nicholas Clinch, of Sussex Assured, a Chichester firm specialising in lending money against cars and speedboats, says: "People come to us rather than to a bank because they don't have to go and answer questions from some cocky 25-year-old about what they are going to do with the money." Philip Marlow, of First County Sureties at Weybridge, Surrey, the oldest car pawn specialist, says the firm currently has loans outstanding worth well over £1 million on vehicles, boats and a helicopter. He has lent money against a stretch of salmon river in Scotland, villas in Spain and second homes. But his company now finds more and more clients offering shares and endowment policies as pledges.

"They can do this with the utmost discretion," he explains. "If the car goes missing, they have to explain to neighbours what has happened to it, but if it's just a piece of paper they don't even need to tell their wife. These are just people who need short-term loans and it is definitely not a recession business. In fact, people are more likely to borrow money if they feel they can repay it."

The likeliest place to find a coronet at a pawnbrokers is T. M. Sutton in Victoria Street, a short walk from the Houses of Parliament. Andy Brown, the manager, counts peers, MPs, lawyers, accountants, footballers, television stars and a lot of Arabs among his clients. "Some clients are looking for £4,000 to pay school fees," he says. "Others maybe want to gamble. We never ask. It's up to them."

Joan Harrington at the London Pledge Company, Islington, runs a more traditional shop for the local community. "The important thing is to be nice to everyone," she said. "At Christmas I got roses, champagne and chocolates from my customers. That shows how much we can be appreciated."

Outside London, pawnbrokers still have a high proportion of poorer customers using their possessions to spin out their finances. Simon Brown is the sixth generation of his family to run the Herbert Brown chain in Yorkshire, which claims to be the oldest in the country. "We keep our business going in smaller places, but it is really done as an adjunct to the jewellery business as a kind of public service," he says.

Trusting dealers stung by art thefts

BY SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

ART dealers are pursuing legal claims after the havoc wrought by a rich Iranian woman in the higher reaches of the London art market.

Diana Amirkhanian was jailed for theft last month after acquiring on approval art worth up to £500,000 and taking it straight to a pawnbroker. Now dealers are trying to recover their remaining losses and revising their tradition of trust.

Mrs Amirkhanian had been a well-known figure on the dealing circuit, introducing dealers to her friends and earning "pocket money" in the process.

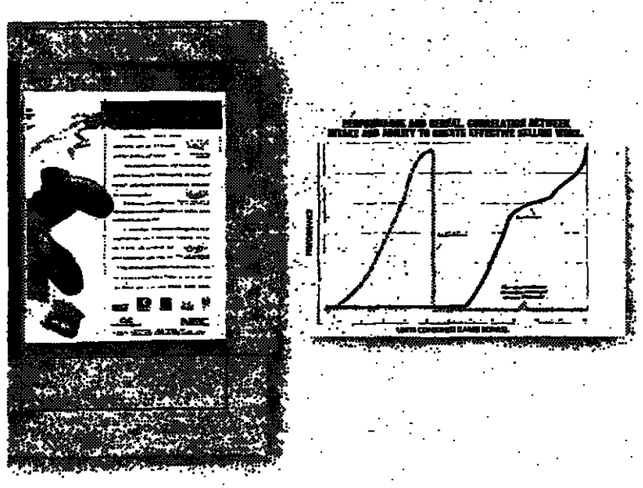
Andrew McIntosh, of the Fine Art Society, allowed her to take away valuable paintings by Gérôme and S.J. Peploe. Will Darby, of Browse & Darby, released a painting by the Frenchman Jacques-Emile Blanche, worth £45,000, and a Degas drawing valued at £77,000. The Jonathan Clark gallery released three paintings worth thousands of pounds. Other picture and jewellery dealers were also duped.

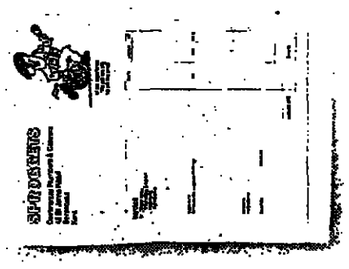
Many of the works ended up at T.M. Sutton, a pawnbroker in Victoria Street, London. Solicitors representing the dealers have advised that title may have passed to Sutton via Mrs Amirkhanian because the works had been released to her voluntarily.

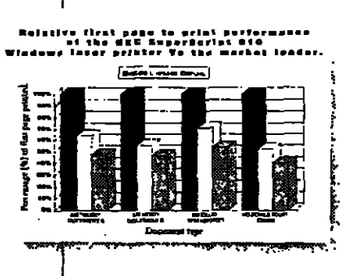
According to John Lundy, head of security for Sutton, 12 civil claims are still pending.

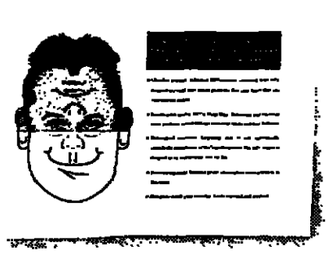
In many cases, prospects for the plaintiffs look uncertain because Mrs Amirkhanian paid a deposit and therefore a sales transaction of sorts took place. "She partly paid us for an £85,000 painting by Peploe," Mr McIntosh said. "We have never seen it since. It's at Sutton's."

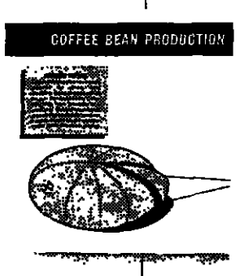
Mr Darby said that he had retrieved the Blanche but was not confident about retrieving the balance on the Degas. "She paid us two thirds of the price and then sold it to a third party for the full price."











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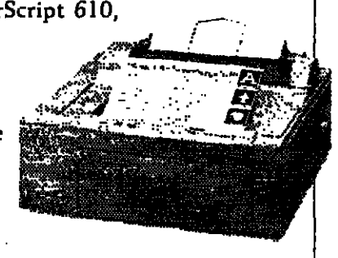
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The odds are long, but people are still willing to take a chance on medical technology

Playing for high stakes in the baby lottery

Joanne Glasbey explains how the agony of infertility drives childless couples to take a gamble on IVF treatment



Joanne Glasbey and her daughter. "Beginner's luck, the skill of the doctor and his team: all of it had helped us to hit the jackpot. I was pregnant." Photograph: Marc Aspland

I am not a gambler, but maybe I should be. I am blessed with beginner's luck. Four and a half years ago, my husband and I were sitting in a clinic with the in vitro fertilisation specialist, poring over our Filofaxes to determine a date of mutual convenience to conceive. I felt an almost tangible but misplaced sense of relief after years of tests, internal examinations, probings, temperature-taking, coupling to prescribed times, scans and investigative surgical procedures. This was the last resort, when it felt that our struggle to conceive was being taken out of our hands — and out of our bodies — by medical technology.

In vitro fertilisation these days is a well-practised clinical procedure, a carefully controlled bypass system that gives nature a helping hand to correct faulty reproductive apparatus. It has nothing to do with genetic engineering, little to do with determining the sex of a child, or surrogate motherhood. These misconceived assumptions arise from the endless news stories announcing doctors to be on the brink of some revolutionary fertility treatment that will test the boundaries of medical and social ethics. The truth about what IVF treatment can and cannot do, and how much it costs, has become blurred in the public mind.

The reality is that it has ceased to be controversial. So-called test-tube babies have been born in Britain since the first success, Louise Brown, was born in 1978. But it remains a huge gamble, born of a biological imperative so strong that couples will try after seven failed attempts to conceive, if they can afford it; if the frustration, disappointment and emotional battering has not disfigured their relationships and their lives too drastically; above all if they are prepared to accept that the odds are stacked against them as they were against us.

It is also hard to explain the predicament of involuntary childlessness to friends. It is a state neither life-threatening nor displaying any physical manifestation; while it seems no longer to carry the stigma it once did, as more couples become more open about such problems and as the word barren is consigned to history, society on the whole has little equipment to deal with it. It is like a bereavement, only there is no corpse, as my husband remarked miserably at one point in our treatment.

People have some idea how to respond to a death, but the fecund find infertility an embarrassingly difficult subject to deal with. We encountered misplaced sympathy, pity, stoicism ("If it's not meant to be...") and forced jollity ("Lots of fun, trying, though, isn't it?"). We even experienced situations where friends made their children scarce for fear the sight of young life would upset us. (I wondered if they thought I might snatch their babies.)

We were healthy, holding down interesting jobs, yet knowing that something was missing. And it rankled that I had spent a good part of my early sexually active years making sure that I did not get pregnant. Perversely I refused to accept the news that I was unlikely ever to conceive naturally. Sure, my fallopian tubes had bad scarring and would not perform satisfactorily, but everything else was functioning normally; my husband's sperm count seemed astronomical. I would not consider myself unable to have a child, initially.

Everywhere I went images of babies would flash at me like neon lights on a dark street. Advertisements beside Underground escalators screamed at me: "Pregnant? It's your choice." Girl friends failed to say they had become pregnant, to spare my feelings; every other magazine on newsstands had a cover shot of mother with offspring beaming happily. Good luck to them, it was merely our misfortune. I was not one of those putative mothers who would shun the chance of holding a friend's infant. I just wanted my own. We were given a 35 per cent success rate at IVF — which meant a 65 per cent failure rate. The odds were stacked against us — a lottery for a life.

The IVF clinic waiting room has a special atmosphere.



Emotions are suppressed. Years of yearning and pain are concealed; the emotions so carefully tailored to fashion an indifferent demeanour. Here are normal quiet couples who have remortgaged their homes, sold their cars, to be able to afford the £2,000 (plus drug bill of about £400) that each treatment cycle costs; people who have travelled from far-flung continents to try against near-impossible odds.

I would attend the clinic early in the morning, have my daily injections of hormone so that the follicles would release many eggs at once; have blood tests to check hormone levels; be scanned. Then I would arrive at my office and forget the jabs, try to ignore my battery-hen bloatedness, immerse myself in work, to repeat the procedure day after day for nearly two weeks.

Close relationships built up with the clinic staff, trained to be super-supportive in such an intimate situation: the creation of life itself. The eggs matured, were collected by ultrasound; my husband produced his sperm sample and the embryologist got to work with a Petri dish.

Forty-eight rather sore hours later, we were reliving our A-level results: we had an A, an A-minus and a B-plus. The three strongest embryos were waiting for us under the lens of the embryologist's microscope, and there we saw protoplasm, divided neatly into two, four cells. The thought that one tiny clump of cells might grow to be our offspring was a humbling, privileged experience.

A simple transfer into the cervix by catheter, two hours lying with my legs raised on a bed, and we were away. There followed a nerve-racking wait for a blood test 12 days later which would determine if we had been successful. Every trip to the loo for me became a superstitious event — would there be blood? Beginner's luck, the skill of the doctor and his team: all of it had helped us to hit the jackpot. I was pregnant — so profoundly worth the roller-coaster hormonal tides, the sense of impending failure, the disabling effects of daily injections of progesterone. It was a small price to pay for the robust, healthy, beautiful daughter who was delivered after an unremarkable pregnancy. The five remaining embryos were frozen for future replacements — which we tried three years later. I was bizarrely excited that any resulting child would be my daughter's fraternal twin, a meaningless definition but nevertheless intriguing.

We were not to find out what that experience would feel like. We remained positive and embarked on two more IVF cycles and a more recent embryo transfer. No joy. Having one child makes failure less harsh, the biological need diminished. We might try again, anxious that the biological clock is hard on five to midnight.

But now we face new dilemmas, such as when to say stop. Maybe finances will dictate. Maybe people will stop asking me whether we are going to have more children. I do not believe I am ready to throw in the towel yet.

Just 16 years ago, IVF was dismissed as science fiction. Technology has moved so fast that medical opinion, popular opinion and the law have been struggling to keep pace. What is important to couples such as us is that minds are kept open, sensationalism ignored and serious consideration given to the ethical questions thrown up by recent advances.

If early researchers in the field had been denied experimentation rights, if the IVF pioneers Steptoe and Edwards had been prevented from carrying out their work, we would not have had the opportunity of having our own child.

"Don't mess around with nature" has always been the detractors' cry; medicine, by its very nature, is interventionist. Let us have loaded dice, if necessary, ethically and professionally, to help put what nature has scrambled into working order. Every woman deserves the opportunity, however long the odds.

☐ *Joanne Glasbey is a former journalist with* The Economist. *She is now associate editor at* Esquire *magazine.*

"It is hard to explain the predicament of involuntary childlessness ... It is like a bereavement, only there is no corpse"

Letters, page 15

Couple's joy over 'football team' in freezer

Andrew Yates and his wife have spent three years trying to have their first child. He details their many trials and tribulations

It was breathtaking news from my wife. "We've got a football team in the deep freeze." Yes, eleven embryos no more than a few cells wide were safely tucked away somewhere in the marbled splendour of west London's Cromwell hospital.

This was a moment of elation; the clearest sign of hope we had received in more than three years of trying to have babies.

We were married on a chilly, windswept February day in 1990, expecting to start a family soon afterwards. It never crossed our minds that we might have difficulty because for so long the emphasis had been on avoiding babies.

But by our first anniversary, we thought it unusual that nothing had happened. Close friends agreed, my wife made an appointment with her GP and we went to visit her. Delightful though she was, it was unnerving: "I'm sure everything's fine; you'll get there but cut down on the drink. And it's probably sensible to have a sperm test."

A sanitised flask and a little literature later, I took my sample to the local hospital. The sample proved satisfactory, as they say, so armed with charts and thermometers, we set out on a year of timed baby-making. Occasionally we indulged ourselves and bought predictakits at about £30 a throw so we knew the timing would be absolute. Sometimes I would be downstairs in my suit, ready for work, when my wife would shout out from the bedroom: "It's time," and I would trot upstairs again.

But it was in vain. Tests had shown my wife was not ovulating correctly, a common and simply rectified problem, so she was put on a fertility drug. Still nothing. I was tested again, and in more detail. My numbers and motility were fine, apparently. She was given a laparoscopy, her fallopian tubes were clear. Suddenly in the summer, bingo. She was pregnant.

Devastatingly, however, the pregnancy was short-lived. It was a "blighted ovum", which failed to develop. My wife went into hospital for it to be removed: she left shattered, hardly consoled by reassurances from well-meaning medical staff that a terminated pregnancy was better than no pregnancy at all.

Soon, we were back to our old routine: the fertility drug, thermometers and performances on cue. Another eight months passed before our doctor recommended IVF and, to avoid delay, that we should go privately. We warned the bank and booked into the Cromwell.

The doctors cars have personalised number plates, such as DOC 1; our consultant was kind, thorough, exuded competence and wore an expensive, wide pinstriped suit. We had to pay for everything in advance.

Within weeks, my wife was sniffing hormones three times a day, at eight-hourly intervals. Then, agonisingly, she was told to inject herself daily with a different hormone in the thigh. She was soon hobbling with pain, but finally, she was ready for the "harvest", a delicate operation performed with a local anaesthetic. And it was a triumph. They collected 15 eggs.

I was directed with my flask to their little room, they mixed everything together and shortly afterwards we heard breathlessly of our precious football team — which had cost us about £2,500. The first three little players fell out of the womb, sadly, so we're down to a netball team now. A disappointment, admittedly — but at least we've some reserves to draw on.

Move to monitor fertility clinics' success

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN to rank fertility clinics according to their success in providing infertile couples with a baby is being considered by the UK licensing authority.

Experts are concerned that the wide variation in the performance of the clinics is leading poorer ones to conceal their success rates from patients. In some clinics, one in three couples takes home a live baby following each cycle of treatment compared with one in 50 for others.

The clinics are required by law to provide their figures on performance to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which has the power to withdraw licences. But the authority only publishes overall success rates — for large, medium and small centres — not individual ones. Patients wanting a complete list have to contact all 67 clinics providing in vitro fertilisation.

"It is extraordinary that one of the major pieces of information is withheld," said John Dickson, director of Issue, the National Fertility Association. "We have members who have been told by clinics that they have a 60 per cent success rate. What they don't say is that this is over four cycles of treatment. When I ask clinics for pregnancy rates per cycle of treatment I get all kinds of information back which I find difficult to interpret."

One cycle of treatment typically costs £2,000 to £2,500. Lucky patients, such as Joanne Glasbey, become pregnant within the first couple of attempts, but others may require a dozen or more.

The fertilisation authority is considering publishing individual success rates if the figures can be presented in a way that is "meaningful to patients and not unfairly detrimental to the clinics," said Hugh Whittall, deputy director.

"There are many factors affecting success rates so a single snapshot is potentially misleading. We are committed to ensuring patients have good information to enable them to decide where to go for treatment," he said.

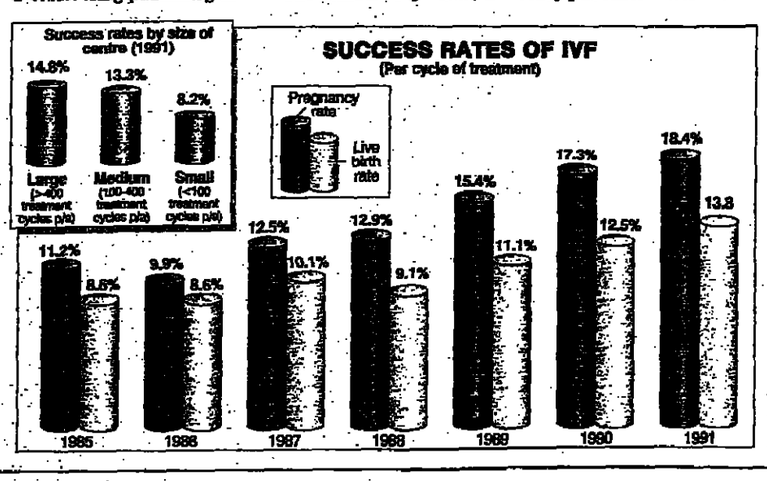
The clinics say that a league table would not compare like with like because some clinics take more harder-to-treat cases than others. "A league table would be unjust," said Professor Robert Winston, director of the infertility unit at Hammersmith hospital in west London. "You have to take account of the age of the patients, the conditions they suffer from and whether donated gametes are used."

However, the authority already publishes tables showing overall success rates by age, condition and whether donor gametes are used. These show higher rates in younger women and in those with ovarian problems and lower rates in older women and those with tubal problems.

The overall success rate of the clinics has risen from 8.6 per cent live births per cycle of treatment in 1985 to 13.8 per cent in 1991, as techniques have improved. Most clinics have doubled their success rates and the best have trebled them.

Professor Winston said success rates were unlikely to exceed 18-19 per cent. "Only one in five embryos will produce a pregnancy. Understanding why will be the next big breakthrough," he said.

In vitro fertilisation remained an option for the few who could afford it, he said. "There are 600,000 infertile women in Britain of whom a few thousand have had IVF in the last seven years and 90 per cent of them have paid. With the cutbacks on infertility treatment in the NHS we are looking at a treatment that is becoming less and less available and more and more privileged."



Rising demand failed by NHS

BY JOANNE GLASBEY

EVERY year in Britain, 10,000 women attempt to have a test-tube baby. Only 1,500 births result. Demand for infertility treatment is increasing, but NHS funding is limited.

In France, infertile couples are offered four IVF cycles free on the state; in Germany, Belgium and Holland, three cycles. Britain refuses to fund this treatment directly on a large scale.

Free IVF treatment, such as it exists, depends, among other factors, on where you live. The only wholly NHS-funded centres are at St Mary's hospital in Manchester, at Heath Park hospital in Cardiff and at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary. Here, the waiting list is up to five years.

The Department of Health leaves district health authorities to make their own arrangements. Many IVF centres use private clinics to fund their busy NHS lists. Other centres will charge a fee of £500 or so for treatment subsidised by private clinics; some district health authorities will pay the fees if the patient is unable to pay.

Of all assisted fertility births by IVF in Britain, only about 10 per cent have been achieved through the services of the NHS.

FACTS AND FIGURES

The average monthly chance of conceiving for a fertile couple having normal intercourse is 20-25 per cent compared with 18 per cent for those undergoing in vitro fertilisation. IVF pregnancies are more likely to end in a miscarriage than normal pregnancies. This may be explained by the fact that women undergoing IVF tend to be older, when miscarriage incidence increases anyway in normal pregnancies, and that women on IVF programmes are more likely to have other fertility problems.

Clinton window-dressing may not deliver the goods



Clinton bidding farewell to Moscow at the weekend

*The President looked good on his first visit to Europe since entering the White House. Yet he is for now the only definite beneficiary, **Martin Fletcher** writes*

IF PRESIDENT Assad of Syria's commitment at Geneva to peace with Israel gave President Clinton a triumphant end to his first official tour of Europe, Yegor Gaidar's resignation yesterday caused him obvious embarrassment. It called into question the solemn pledges of continued economic reform that Mr Clinton had extracted from President Yeltsin late last week.

President Clinton had ended his first official European tour in Minsk, surely one of the Continent's bleakest cities, where he bowed to pressure from the Communist leaders of Belorussia to change his itinerary. He agreed to visit Kuropaty, the woods where Stalin butchered and buried up to 200,000 opponents, only after he had paid his respects at a Soviet-built monument to the victims of Nazism in Victory Square.

If avoiding such diplomatic clashes and providing good pictures were Mr Clinton's prime objectives, then this trip was unquestionably a success. The lasting memories are of the personable President chatting to locals in a Brussels café, playing the saxophone in a Prague jazz club, plunging into a Moscow sausage shop, and posing for pictures with a 13-year-old admirer during an extraordinary "town hall meeting" broadcast live across Russia. Mr Clinton arrived as something of an unknown quantity, but charmed his fellow Nato leaders, even jovially comparing Germany's corpulent Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, to a sumo wrestler. In Prague, he enjoyed a night on the town with President Havel of the Czech Republic. In Moscow, he enjoyed a public relations bonanza when Mr Yeltsin invited him and his family to spend a night in the Kremlin, the first President accorded that honour since Richard Nixon.

The 200 increasingly exhausted journalists who trailed Mr Clinton round the Continent were fed numerous personal titbits, most of which demonstrated the President's prodigious energy. At the Kremlin, for example, we were told that he went to bed at midnight, woke about 4.30am "full of thought about what he'd experienced the day before", and took an hour-long walk by himself around the grounds. Wherever he went he jogged, usually before dawn.

This was a President who badly needed to demonstrate his foreign policy prowess after a fairly calamitous first year, and eleventh-hour controversies were not permitted to spoil the minutely choreographed script. Mr Clinton acceded to last-minute French demands for tougher noises on Bosnia, an issue he wished to play down, though in reality Nato simply postponed the hard decision on whether to bomb Serb aggressors. The increasingly strident demands of Eastern Europe's new democracies for rapid Nato membership were robust, partly for military reasons but also to placate the Russians. American officials were hugely relieved when President Walesa of Poland announced his grudging acceptance of *Partnership for Peace* in Prague.

Having rushed forward the announcement of President Kravchuk's agreement to dismantle Ukraine's nuclear weapons, a late-night stop in Kiev was hastily added to Mr Clinton's itinerary to cement the deal — American officials were even said to have hinted at a Nobel Peace Prize if the old Communist co-operated. Mr Clinton acquired two new saxophones, from Mr Havel and the mayor of Dinant, the Belgian town where the instrument was invented, but it was much harder to quantify the concrete achievements he went home with on Air Force One. Like Mr Yeltsin's pledges to continued economic reform, the trip's other headline-grabbers could also in time be seen as rather less substantial than they first appeared. Mr Clinton won Nato's enthusiastic approval of *Partnership for Peace*, a clever compromise that gives the illusion of expanding Nato but essentially postpones any firm decision until Russia's future direction becomes clear.

American officials privately concede that Ukraine's nationalist parliament may reject President Kravchuk's agreement to abandon his country's nuclear arsenal, and they have been conspicuously vague about the timetable for disarmament. Mr Clinton certainly did much to assuage Europe's fears about American disengagement with a cogent speech in Brussels within hours of his arrival, and his belated presence undoubtedly helped relieve the tensions that have bedevilled transatlantic relations over the past year. At every stop he preached a seductive new vision of pan-European integration based on vibrant democracies and open markets.

It is hard to be certain that Mr Clinton's new interest in Europe will endure, though he plans two more visits this summer. He has the consummate politician's skill of making the immediate object of his attentions feel special, but from today his preoccupations will be health care reform and the burgeoning Whitewater financial scandal. If nothing else this error-free, telegenic parade through Europe will have given his domestic stature a boost.

Assad peace pledge, page 1
Leading article, page 15

Reform architect Gaidar quits Yeltsin's cabinet

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

■ The Russian President has been trying to placate conservatives in his cabinet. The result has been to drive away a key radical who clearly has no taste for compromise

YEGOR Gaidar, who spearheaded President Yeltsin's radical reforms, announced yesterday that he was quitting the government, saying that he was unable to enact his policies against resistance from cabinet colleagues.

Mr Gaidar said that he had refused the Russian leader's offer to stay on in the post of First Deputy Prime Minister, a job which he holds in addition to the economics portfolio. The new cabinet is announced tomorrow.

In another development exposing the strife and lack of morale in the Russian government, Boris Fyodorov, the Finance Minister, said that he had not yet been invited to join the new administration and implicitly criticised Mr Yeltsin's pledges to continue reforms without imposing further pain on the population. Mr Fyodorov is another figure highly regarded by the West for his defence of strict fiscal controls against the high-spending Central Bank.

Mr Gaidar said: "I cannot work without having the necessary levers at my command, when decisions that I have taken are not approved, and at the same time decisions, which I regard as dangerous, are adopted by the government." He added that he was not prepared to be "at one and the same time in the government and in opposition to it", and that he would continue to campaign as head of the Russia's Choice bloc in parliament for thorough and lasting reform.

Mr Gaidar's departure is an embarrassment for Mr Yeltsin, coming immediately after his upbeat summit with President Clinton, during which he reassured the American leader that the course of reform would not be affected by the success of the far-right Liberal Democrats and the Communists in last month's parliamentary elections.

In Washington last night, Clinton Administration officials tried to play down the significance of Mr Gaidar's move and argued that the economic reforms would continue, albeit with "greater sensitivity" towards domestic and social considerations.

For Mr Clinton, the announcement by Mr Gaidar was a case of bad timing, as it came after his departure from Moscow at the tail end of his European trip. In an attempt at diplomatic damage control, Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, said in Geneva that Mr Gaidar's decision was an internal matter. After paying a brief tribute, Mr Christopher said the decision was connected to the poor showing of Mr Gaidar's party in the parliamentary elections, and a growing concern within Russia about the social consequences of reform.

Mr Yeltsin has had a close personal affinity with Mr Gaidar, 37, since his own early days as Kremlin leader and had indicated that he wanted to retain him despite Mr Gaidar's poor result as his party's leading candidate. The West has also viewed Mr Gaidar's fate as an indication of the Kremlin's level of commmitment to rapid restructuring and fiscal control.

But the radical reformer's resignation letter makes clear that he was dissatisfied with the amount of control Mr Yeltsin was prepared to give him over economic policy in the wake of the protest vote. The double act of populist President and adademic reform chief at the heart of the Russian leadership now seems to be at an end.

Vyacheslav Kostikov, Mr Yeltsin's spokesman, said that the President had not yet accepted the resignation and that Mr Gaidar would be summoned for talks in the hope of reaching a compromise on his participation in government.

Mr Gaidar has made it clear that he blames Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, for stalling reforms, complaining that cabinet decisions on essential matters were being taken "without debate or voting" while Mr Yeltsin has come to regard the stolid Prime Minister as an important defence against attacks from the powerful industrial lobby and a vital anchor to a listing government.



Yegor Gaidar, in the vanguard of President Yeltsin's programme of radical reform, who said yesterday he would not serve in a new government to be named this week

Turkmen herd gives President easy win

BY ANNE MCELVOY

PRESIDENT Niyazov of Turkmenistan, whose authoritarian leadership is aided by a personality cult unrivalled in the former Soviet Union, was confirmed in office yesterday in a communist-style "yes or no" vote that won him 99.99 per cent support.

The central electoral committee in Ashkhabad, the capital, announced that only 212 people from an electorate of nearly two million had voted against Mr Niyazov. A committee spokesman added that "humanitarian love and respect for their leader compelled people to participate, coupled with faith that he will lead them to prosperity and happiness".

More prosaically, Mr Niyazov held the referendum to bypass the constitutional clause calling for the re-election of the President every five years to ensure that he stays in office until 2002. He is aware of rare murmurings of dissatisfaction after his creation of a national currency, the manat, went awry, dropping by a factor of 12 against the dollar since its inception last November.

A former Communist Party boss, Mr Niyazov is also Prime Minister and head of Turkmenistan's only legal party. He glories in titles such as "the chief of all Turkmen" and "the first herdsman of Turkmenistan". He demands absolute loyalty from the republic's institutions and press. *Turkmenskaya Iskra*, the official newspaper, rose to the occasion yesterday announcing that "everyone is agreed . . . that the referendum will give the universally acknowledged leader the opportunity to realise the humanitarian policy . . . which reflects the hopes and dreams of the nation".

The leadership has firmly rejected the introduction of democracy in Turkmenistan, which borders Iran, saying that political pluralism would endanger "the internal harmony for which our country is renowned".

Crimean voters judge merits of forsaking Kiev for Moscow



FROM REUTER IN SIMFEROPOL

THE Crimean peninsula in Ukraine yesterday held presidential elections dominated by Russian nationalism that could threaten the unity of the former Soviet republic. All but one of six candidates in the region, an "autonomous republic" within Ukraine, favour rejoining Crimea to Russia or declaring independence.

Ethnic Russians make up some 70 per cent of 2.5 million residents in Crimea, where a lengthy election campaign has been punctuated by three murders and allegations of dirty tricks. Turnout was heavy in the Black Sea region — 45 per cent had voted by midday — once the summer playground of Kremlin leaders but now staggering from post-Soviet Ukraine's economic collapse. Voters in Simferopol, the region's main centre, walked through light rain to polling stations outside which exotic food and other goods were on sale, a practice reminiscent of Soviet-era elections. Growing economic misery has been the key to the campaign, especially in appeals to pensioners, worst hit by 80 per cent monthly inflation.

Officials in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, pinned their hopes on Nikolai Bagrov, head of the regional parliament and the sole candidate calling for Crimea to expand its powers and remain in a federal Ukraine. The last opinion poll credited Mr Bagrov with 23 per cent of the vote. Also on 23 per cent was Yuri Meshkov, the Communist leader, who says Crimea will only prosper if it rejoins Russia.

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Finnish exit polls point to woman head of state

FROM OLLI KIVINEN IN HELSINKI

EXIT polls indicated that Elisabeth Rehn, the Finnish Defence Minister, would win the first round of the presidential elections yesterday. The surveys, conducted for the Finnish Broadcasting Corporation, gave Ms Rehn, the Swedish People's Party candidate, 30 per cent of the vote.

Martti Ahtisaari, representing the Finnish Social Democratic Party, with a predicted 24 per cent, was likely to be the other candidate in the second and decisive round on February 6. Raimo Ilaskivi, the conservative candidate, was trailing with 18 per cent, while Paavo Vayrynen, for the Centre Party, was in fourth place with a disappointing 16 per cent. The other seven candidates were a long way behind.

Ms Rehn has an excellent chance to win the second round and become Finland's first female president. The last opinion poll, published on Friday night, suggested that she was the only candidate able to defeat Mr Ahtisaari, giving her victory by 55 to 45 per cent. He had topped all previous polls.

If the exit polls are correct, Finns have voted for change, as both the candidates in the run-off would be from outside the political mainstream. Membership of the European Union was not a main election theme, but Ms Rehn and Mr Ahtisaari are the two contenders most in favour.

Her success is the big sensation of the election. Her party represents Finland's 6 per cent Swedish-speaking minority and she forced her way to the top during the last few weeks of the campaign. Never before has a politician of the minority been able to command such widespread support.

Ms Rehn, 58, who has a degree in economics, entered politics in the late 1970s after the family business that she helped to run went bankrupt. She has four children and nine grandchildren.

She became the world's first woman defence minister in 1990 and has since become very popular with her outspoken and tough statements on defence, her debating skills, and liberal policies on human rights, equality and development aid. She is the main force in the work of the United Nations Children's Fund in Finland. She was extremely successful last year in explaining to the recession-wary public why Finland needed to buy almost 70 American F18 Hornet fighter aircraft, even flying in one as a passenger.

Her profile has been very high. During campaigning she became the leading candidate among non-socialist voters, who account for some 70 per cent of the electorate. Although she is a minister in the coalition government and became an MP as long ago as 1979, she has never been seen as a member of the ruling political elite.

Mr Ahtisaari, 56, the predicted second candidate in the deciding round, is also an unusual phenomenon in Finnish politics. He is a well-known United Nations diplomat, a former under-secretary and Namibia commissioner. Mr Ahtisaari also played an important role in the Bosnia peace negotiations in Geneva as an assistant to Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance. He is presently the Finnish Foreign Ministry's highest-ranking civil servant. He belongs to the Social Democratic Party but he has never participated in party politics and has little experience in domestic or economic politics.

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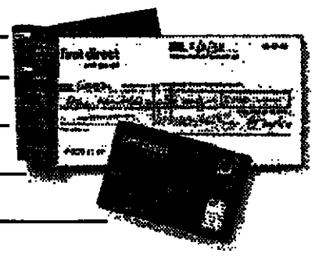
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Syrian initiative increases regional risks for Assad



President Assad of Syria straining to hear a reporter's question yesterday as he arrived at Geneva airport

The Syrian president has risked much to bring his country back into the peace process. Much political skill and more compromises will be needed to transform a breakthrough into a durable settlement, ***Lawrence Freedman*** *writes*



FOR President Assad of Syria, yesterday's commitment to peace with Israel poses risks. While he faces little in the way of open dissent at home, his opponents in the Arab world could try to use his "peace with courage" against him.

The Syrian leader's attitude towards a peace with Israel has long been wary. He does not actually need a deal in the same way that the Palestine Liberation Organisation needs one to haul itself out of political oblivion. Mr Assad would like to secure the return of the Golan Heights, but he is aware that an agreement is unlikely to see the return of absolute sovereignty. Israel will want either to keep some territory to prevent it being used to shell settlements, as it was before the 1967 war, or have it demilitarised with active guarantees from the United States. Israel wants a total peace, with open borders and free trade. What could easily be presented by his enemies as a partial deal might be harder for Mr Assad to accept than the status quo, in which his claim is unimpaired.

The 15,000 Israeli settlers may not represent as powerful a constituency as their counterparts on the West Bank, but they would have to be accommodated in some way. Moreover, even for a partial deal, Israel demands a proper peace with as normal relations as countries ever have with one another in the Middle East, with open borders and free trade. This would also not be easy given the central role played by anti-Zionism in Syrian political culture. Lastly, some understanding would have to be reached over Lebanon. Here Israel would offer disengagement from its "security zone" in the South in return for active Syrian help in reining in Hezbollah and its guerrilla activity.

So far, there has not been quite enough in all this for Mr Assad to take great political risks. However, Syria has been weakened by the loss of its key patron, the Soviet Union.

A shift towards America was eased through some skilful footwork during the Gulf War, in which Mr Assad conferred legitimacy on the coalition against his old enemy, President Saddam Hussein, by providing radical Arab participation without actually doing very much in the conflict itself.

For a while, little was done to build upon this new relationship with Washington, as there was little movement in the peace process. So long as the Likud Party was in charge of Israeli foreign policy, Mr Assad was not going to be faced with gauntlets for peace thrown down from Jerusalem. He let Israel be the target of American irritation for its intransigence, while his own was not put to the test. This changed with Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party election victory in 1992. Mr Rabin was clearly keen on a deal with Syria to remove all the external threats to Israel's security. Mr Assad made encouraging noises in late 1992, but little happened.

Then last September the breakthrough with the PLO suddenly created alarm in Damascus that it had been left behind. Syria had always pledged itself not to make a deal so long as the Palestinian question was left unsettled. Mr Assad was annoyed that an apparent deal would put him on the spot before he was ready — and that it had been achieved behind his back. His relations with the PLO have always been stormy, but he dared not jeopardise his opening to Washington by actively subverting an agreement (he could leave that to Iran). Nor did he want to see Yassir Arafat, the PLO leader, taking all the plaudits. Syria began to sulk.

Ironically, it may have been the problems emerging in the Israeli—PLO deal that made him more interested in re-entering the peace process. If Israel cannot take the PLO for granted, then it would not overestimate its own bargaining position with Syria. Moreover, he must have noted how Mr Arafat was fêted in Washington and how international promises of aid came his way in return for Palestinian good behaviour. That Mr Assad obtained direct talks with President Clinton in Geneva indicated to him the possibilities if he can now deliver on progress.

Talks will soon resume in Washington and Mr Clinton must now use his success in extracting the right diplomatic noises from Mr Assad to help in forging a durable settlement. Hopefully he has learned this week that active presidential involvement is essential for foreign policy breakthroughs. He must now recognise that these breakthroughs can be very fragile unless followed up with persistence and commitment.

Geneva summit boosts hopes of Middle East peace

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

■ **Israeli politicians are enthusing about a breakthrough next week. Jewish settlers in the Golan Heights could face the stark choice of leaving or living under Syrian rule**

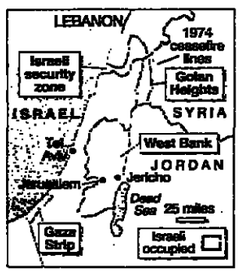
EXPECTATION was rising in the Middle East last night that Israel and Syria will make a historic breakthrough when they resume peace talks in Washington next week.

Senior United States officials were last night expected in Israel to brief Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, on the details of yesterday's five hours of talks in Geneva between President Clinton and President Assad of Syria. Most of the meeting was taken up with discussion on ways for Syria to take the leading role in the Arab world in achieving a "comprehensive peace" in the Middle East by ending the 50-year conflict between Israel and its neighbours.

Although President Assad did not fulfil Israeli demands to explain exactly what kind of peace with Israel Damascus has in mind, he went further than ever before by saying that his country looked forward to "a great, long peace with Israel". His remarks and the positive impression he made on Mr Clinton may have set the stage for real progress in Washington when Israel and Syria resume negotiations on a "land for peace" agreement on the Golan Heights, Syrian territory captured by Israel in 1967.

Uri Dromi, the director of the Israeli government press office, said last night that it would be impossible to assess the success of the summit before Israel had been thoroughly briefed on its content. "Although Assad was reluctant to spell out what we wanted to hear, I believe that just the fact of the meeting and the publicity surrounding it creates the sense that things are happening, and that in itself is important in giving cement to the peace process," he said.

Even before yesterday's summit began, hopes for a possible breakthrough with Syria were high after comments by two prominent Israeli left-wing ministers who, for the first time publicly, raised the possibility that Israel would withdraw from the whole of the Golan Heights. "For this kind of peace and for this kind of normalisation ... Israel will have to give up its sovereignty over the Golan," said Yossi Sarid, the Environment Minister, a member of the dovish Meretz Party, a junior coalition partner.



Although his remarks could be dismissed as those of the left and unrepresentative of the more hawkish Mr Rabin, they were nevertheless widely regarded in Israel as government kite-flying. That view was reinforced by similar comments by Yossi Beilin, the Deputy Foreign Minister. He said that the summit could yield "compensations on the ground" if President Assad spelt out his vision of peace with Israel.

Mr Beilin, a controversial young Labour Party parliamentarian, coupled his remarks with a stark message for the 15,000 Israeli settlers living on the strategic heights, saying: "It was a mistake to establish settlements in the occupied territories from the beginning.

"After withdrawal in the Golan, the residents will have to choose whether they want to move to the area within sovereign Israel or to stay in Syrian-held territory. If they think that life under Syrian rule is fun, let them stay there. The choice is theirs."

Not surprisingly, talk of a withdrawal has angered many of the 15,000 Israeli settlers living on the Golan. Hundreds of them clashed yesterday with police during a demonstration in the main settlement town of Qazrin when the police tried to push them to the side of a road. The protesters also burnt tyres.

"Of course tension is rising here," said Eli Malka, head of the Golan Settlements Council, whose supporters were planning another protest outside the American embassy in Tel Aviv for later last night. "The residents of the Golan want to protest against those who are talking about the mistake of putting up settlements here and against the United States Administration, which is interfering with the country's internal affairs," he added.

On Friday a poll of Golan settlers revealed that 52 per cent had already discussed the option of leaving and 11 per cent had started looking for homes elsewhere.

Peace pledge, page 1



The Chephren pyramid, reflected in a large puddle of rainwater, made a rare sight in Cairo at the weekend. The heavy rains, which fell on Saturday, disrupted normal life in the Egyptian capital and left the pyramids without their usual crowds of tourists

Radical blacks renounce armed struggle

BY RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE radical Pan Africanist Congress is suspending its guerrilla campaign in South Africa conditionally and will register as a political party to contest the all-race general election on April 27.

Clarence Makwetu, the PAC president, said in Johannesburg that orders to halt the armed struggle were being issued by leaders of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the PAC's armed wing, to cadres throughout the country. However, the congress reserved the right to defend the African people and he called on the government to grant amnesty to guerrillas held in prison or living in exile. Mr Makwetu also said that the PAC would not take part in the Transitional Executive Council at this stage.

The announcement followed a crisis meeting of the PAC senior leadership on Saturday. The most critical issue facing them was the declaration by Tanzania barring the PAC and the APLA, which has headquarters in Dar es Salaam, from using the country to plot hostile action against South Africa. For decades, Tanzania has been the PAC's staunchest supporter.

The decision opens the way for the APLA to be integrated into South Africa's new national defence force alongside the African National Congress's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, and the armies of the independent black homelands. The APLA claims a strength of between 5,000 and 10,000.

Meanwhile, it was reported yesterday that a shadowy far-right group, the Boer Republican Army, had issued death threats against three cabinet ministers and also General Constand Viljoen, leader of the Afrikaner Volksfront.

A government spokesman said letters in Afrikaans and a small plastic bag containing a piece of what was believed to be plastic explosive had been sent to Roelf Meyer, the Constitutional Development Minister, and Leon Wessels, the Manpower Minister, the government's chief negotiators at the constitutional talks, as well as Hernus Kriel, the hardline Law and Order Minister.

The Afrikaans-language *Rapport* yesterday carried photographs of a secret training camp on the border of Natal and Orange Free State provinces, showing white instructors training blacks dressed in brown combat fatigues and armed with automatic rifles. The paper alleged that right-wing whites were training Zulus to defend members of the Inkatha Freedom Party against possible action by the ANC or the government.



Makwetu: called for guerrilla amnesty

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French marchers celebrate victory for state education

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH IN PARIS

HUNDREDS of thousands of people took to the streets of Paris yesterday to defend state support of secular, public schools. The demonstration, halting traffic for most of the day, further embarrassed Edouard Balladur's government, which had clearly underestimated the depth of feeling.

The march was initially called to protest against the revision of a 144-year-old law that limits the amount local authorities may spend on private, mainly Roman Catholic schools, but the organisers changed it to a "victory march" after M Balladur dropped his proposals.

France's Constitutional Council had ruled on Thursday that the proposed changes could discriminate against pupils in cash-starved public schools, and was therefore unconstitutional. Rather than reword the Bill, or try to come to some arrangement with President Mitterrand to alter the constitution, M Balladur simply abandoned his plans. Analysts said he had cut his political losses, fearing that the opposition Socialist Party would use the issue to launch Michel Rocard's presidential campaign.

M Rocard, a former Socialist prime minister who led yesterday's march, was careful to emphasise that it was not a left-wing demonstration but one that had garnered support across the political spectrum. Among those who participated were France's Freemasons. The Grand Master of the Grand-Orient-de-France, Gilbert Abergel, said that every lodge in France had sent a representative. "We feel that something which constitutes the very essence of the Republic is under threat," he said. The organisers said more than a million people from all over the country had marched. The police estimated that 250,000 took part.

An opinion poll published yesterday in *Le Journal du Dimanche* showed that 70 per cent of voters approved of the government's decision to scrap its Bill, with just 27 per cent disapproving. Several MPs within the ruling coalition had expressed doubts about the proposals, with one, Patrick Devedjian, of the neo-Gaullist RPR, suggesting that François Bayrou, the Education Minister, should resign.

The call was echoed by many on the march. One group of teachers carried a mock advertisement reading: "Position available: State school seeks minister who can read the constitution."

Photograph, page 18

Italy sets poll for March 27

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

PRESIDENT Scalfaro dissolved the scandal-plagued Italian parliament yesterday, asking Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Prime Minister, to remain in office with full powers until a general election set for March 27.

The 73-year-old Prime Minister and former central bank governor offered his resignation to the head of state on Thursday to pave the way for the election, but President Scalfaro asked him to stay at the Palazzo Chigi to continue his economic reforms.

Analysts believe that only 10 per cent of MPs will retain their seats. More than a quarter of parliamentarians are under investigation for corruption or suspected violation of party financing laws.

Fatalism gives green light to deadly road safety week

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA has ended its annual road safety week, during which more than 1,000 people died on what are possibly the world's most dangerous roads. The carnage is worsening month by month, along with a phenomenal growth in traffic. The annual death toll is 60,000, equivalent to a fatality every nine minutes.

Nearly 6,000 people a week are injured on the roads, which operate according to a system of unwritten laws unique to India. Might is right: buses and heavy lorries are king, scooters and bicycles are ants that scatter before them or are crushed.

Delhi has more vehicles than Calcutta, Bombay and Madras put together — 2.2 million at the last count. More than two-thirds of these are scooters with inefficent two-stroke engines, which belch smoke and make Delhi one of the world's most polluted cities.

One-way systems are rare, lane discipline does not exist, and signalling is performed by the pedantic few. Death on the roads is so commonplace that few people bother to stop when a scooter driver disappears under a bus. S. K. Dargan, a senior official at the Ministry of Surface Transport, noted that accidents are often perceived as acts of fate, "as something destined by God" and thus unavoidable.

Hindu fatalism aside, there is deepening government alarm that the roads are out of control. The number of vehicles in Delhi is up 12 per cent in a year. The death rate on roads is 17 times higher than in Japan and 13 times higher than in Britain and America.

Traffic policemen in Delhi are as rare as winter rain. There are just 1,400 in a city of nearly 10 million people, which means that drunk drivers need never worry about being stopped and red lights can be ignored with impunity.

Even if a driver is caught, a "tip" of 100 rupees (about £2) will usually send a traffic policeman on his way without further ado. Driving licences are a quaint formality: even bus and lorry drivers do not have them.

Delhi police organised street plays in slums during road safety week in an attempt to show pedestrians, cyclists and scooter drivers how to stay alive. Many road users are illiterate, particularly lorry drivers, most of whom have never had a driving lesson.

A spot check of bus drivers in the capital showed that a staggering proportion had never driven a large vehicle before being handed the keys of a corporation vehicle.

Attack on American star may have inflicted permanent damage on figure skating

Olympic future of 'Ice Witch' hangs in the balance

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK





Tonya Harding, the US figure-skating champion, and her former husband, Jeff Gillooly, facing tough questions as Nancy Kerrigan meets a sympathetic press at the weekend

Figure-skating champion Tonya Harding may lose her place in the American Olympic team as a result of the January 6 attack on Nancy Kerrigan, her arch-rival, in Detroit. Two of the three men charged in connection with the attack are understood to have told police that Ms Harding knew and approved of the plan to disable Ms Kerrigan during training by hitting her leg with a police baton.

As a result of the allegations, the US Olympic Committee yesterday began discussions on whether Ms Harding will be allowed to compete in next month's Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway. She gained her place on the team on January 8 when she won the national figure-skating championship in Ms Kerrigan's absence.

Ms Harding is not among those so far charged, but for most fans and observers the verdict on her future has already been reached. In a sport blending athleticism and furious competition with fairytale fantasy, Nancy Kerrigan has become the Ice Queen since she was attacked, and Tonya Harding has been cast in the public mind as the wicked Ice Witch.

Jeff Gillooly, Ms Harding's former husband, also has not been charged over the attack, which badly bruised Ms Kerrigan's knee and forced her out of the national championships. Police in Portland, Oregon, say, however, that they are continuing to investigate him and Ms Harding.

According to the *Boston Globe*, Shane Minoaka Stant, the alleged hit-man arrested last week in Phoenix, told investigators that Ms Harding was involved in the conspiracy to incapacitate her rival "way back". He said she even fabricated a death threat against herself to deflect suspicion.

Another of the accused men, Shawn Eckardt, 26, Ms Harding's bodyguard, has confessed to the crime and claims the skater was involved in the "planning and cover-up" of the assault.

At the same time a new witness has come forward to defend Ms Harding and accuse Mr Gillooly of "masterminding" the attack. The couple divorced six months ago, but have since been reconciled.

Sarah Bergman, an acquaintance of Mr Eckardt's, told a private investigator that she had been in his house when he discussed the plot to "get Kerrigan" with Mr Gillooly on the telephone. "It was Jeff [Gillooly] doing this for Tonya so he could look better in her eyes. Things were kind of rocky between Jeff and Tonya," Ms Bergman told a Portland television station. According to *The Detroit News* yesterday, a warrant for Mr Gillooly's arrest has been requested, but Detroit police have refused to confirm or deny the report.

Ron Parmele, stepfather of the alleged hitman, insists that Mr Stant, 22, was responsible for saving Ms Kerrigan's life. "They wanted to kill her," he told reporters. "Shane said they didn't need to do that, just break her leg. He went through with it to keep her from being killed."

Ms Harding and Mr Gillooly deny any role in the attack.

While Ms Kerrigan's injury has healed, the damage done to the image of figure skating may be permanent. That consideration is clearly weighing on the Olympic committee as it ponders Harding's place on the team.

"The [committee] cannot prejudge any of the issues relating to any individual, but we are concerned about issues of sportsmanship as well as other disruptive issues within the US delegation," Leroy Walker, the committee's president, said.

"I'm sure we'll take into account how the public is clamouring," said Dr Walker, referring to a flood of letters condemning Ms Harding sent to the committee in recent days. With impressive understatement, Claire Ferguson, the US Figure Skating Association president, said Ms Harding's chances of going to Lillehammer were "looking pretty grim".

Whatever its pretensions to gentility and grace, figure skating is as ferociously competitive as any other sport, a cut-throat world where celebrity endorsments can mean as much as triple-axel spins. The Olympic gold medal winner can look forward to at least $10 million (£6.7 million) in fees and sponsorship deals, according to Ms Kerrigan's agent.

Ms Harding, a tough working-class woman who favours pick-up trucks and pool halls, had the bad judgment to admit, even celebrate this uncomfortable fact. When asked for her thoughts about the Olympics recently, she said: "To be perfectly honest what I'm really thinking about are the dollar signs." In many other ways, too, she has eschewed the pretty-girl image of figure skaters.

The daughter of a lorry driver and a waitress — her mother married no less than seven times — the future champion spent her childhood in eight different homes before dropping out of school to train full time. Hers was a hard life of poverty, gruelling training and marital stress.

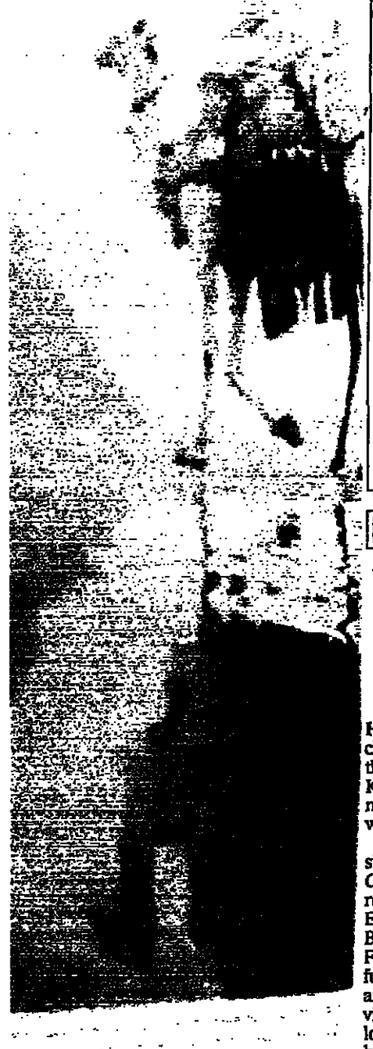
Acquaintances describe her as the "classic battered wife", and a 1991 police report indicates that her husband once threatened to break her legs and destroy her career, a warning which has now acquired a horribly familiar ring.

Ms Kerrigan, who won the bronze medal in the 1992 Olympics while Harding finished fourth, is the perfect contrast. Ever-smiling, shy, brave in adversity, she, too, is a working-class girl but lives at home with her parents, whom she praises constantly. She never talks about money, criticises her opponents or complains. She could not comprehend, she said, why anyone would attack her.

She might have been born in the sequins and tassles of her skating outfits; Ms Harding, one feels, would always feel more comfortable in a boiler suit.

The Olympic committee has until the end of the month to decide whether to remove Ms Harding from the team, a verdict that clearly depends on the police investigation. If she is dropped, she can take legal steps to block the decision but, in this subjective sport where image, personality and charm play a crucial role, Ms Harding may already be a loser.

Torvill and Dean, page 22



NEWS SUMMARY

UK warned on China trade links

Hong Kong: A Chinese official has warned [illegible] that the wrangle over Hong Kong will affect economic matters (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

In *China Business Weekly*, a sister publication of the official *China Daily*, an official with responsibility for Western Europe recommended that Britain follow the French lead. France has agreed to sell no further weapons to Taiwan after pressure from firms convinced Paris that France had lost potential trade with China because of sales.

However, Sir Charles Powell, a director of Jardines, said yesterday: "I don't know of a single example of any British firm losing business with China because of the Hong Kong difficulty. Last year British trade with China doubled."

Talks open

Belgrade: Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian leaders begin gathering in Geneva for what looks set to be the most hopeless round of peace talks yet conducted. The talks open as threats of air strikes by Nato fade into obscurity.

Christian freed

Nicosia: Iran has denied that its courts sentenced a man to death for converting from Islam to Christianity. It said Mehdi Dibaji had been released on bail and his case was being investigated. *(Reuter)*

Telling tales

Bonn: A wheelchair-bound German schoolgirl who disappeared after inventing a story about neo-Nazis carving a swastika into her face was expected to go home to face an outcry over her deed. *(Reuter)*

Pardon offends

Harare: Human rights activists have reacted with outrage to news that President Mugabe has granted immediate pardons to two men convicted of shooting a prominent opposition politician.

Cash trigger

Washington: Gun owners spent up to four hours in temperatures as low as -12C to accept a $100 (£67) cash offer by Riddick Bowe, the boxer, for each firearm. More than 1,400 guns were turned in. *(AP)*

Dry facts

Sydney: Australia has lost its place at the top of the league of hard-drinking nations. Luxembourg heads the table. Even Britons drink more, a survey reveals. *(AFP)*



Emiliano Zapata, a hero to Mexican peasants

Mexico orders amnesty after peasant revolt

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MEXICO CITY

PRESIDENT Salinas of Mexico said yesterday he will propose a general amnesty to all sides in the peasants' revolt that swept the southern state of Chiapas.

The President said he had ordered Congress to hold an immediate extraordinary session. The amnesty would apply to actions taken from January 1, when the trouble started, to noon yesterday. "With this action, it is clear that the state of Mexico seeks peace," the President said. He added that, within the next few days, he would also set in motion a special programme for Chiapas "to ensure security for the people and justice for the state".

The presidential announcement came as the film *Viva Zapata!* was being shown on Mexican television and as the National Human Rights Commission started an investigation into the discovery of a common grave in the region where fighting began on New Year's Day between the Mexican army and Indian peasant guerrillas.

The commission exhumed 11 bodies at the weekend from the grave in the town of Ocosingo, scene of some of the heaviest fighting, adding to accusations by various independent human rights groups of abuses, which include summary executions by the army and torture and beatings of rebel prisoners.

The government has put the death toll at 107, but human rights groups and the Catholic church fear that the number could be far higher. Residents have reported that 95 people are missing, although it is expected that some may have temporarily left their homes to avoid the fighting.

"We know that there are many more dead than the government has said," Ramsey Clark, a former American attorney-general and peace activist who visited Chiapas last week, said. Released prisoners have reported that civilians suspected of being guerrillas were rounded up by soldiers and taken to a military base near San Cristóbal de las Casas where they were beaten, dunked in freezing water and deprived of food.

In the capital yesterday the face of Emiliano Zapata stared out defiantly at passers-by along Reform Boulevard, where Indian groups from around the country increased anti-government protests in the wake of the peasant uprising. Zapata, who led a peasant army during the Mexican revolution to defend Indian land rights, died in April 1919, but as a popular T-shirt here declares: "Long live Zapata, you bastards, the revolution is not over".

The government, fearing armed attacks by groups sympathetic to the Zapatista National Liberation Army, increased security in the capital and around the country. Police in Mexico City have closed some popular tourist attractions, including the National Palace, where a mural by Diego Rivera depicts the history of the Mexican revolution, prominently featuring Zapata.



Salinas: asked Congress to initiate peace move



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LONDON ELECTRICITY

Raining cats and Filipinos

If you were wondering what has happened to the weather, look to the Pacific, says

Peter Barnard



London's drowning — the dreadful weather in Britain has been caused by a volcano which erupted thousands of miles away

With Chichester gone Venetian and bits sliding off the Isle of Wight, yesterday's weather was a positive relief for most of us: gales, sleet and snow make a change from emptying water out of the ceiling light fittings.

But even this pick 'n' mix of misery has failed to flush out the superstars who dominated the weather charts a mere two years ago, the meteorological Madonnas who toured the globe with arms raised towards the heavens.

We followed their upward gaze transfixed and saw ... the ozone layer. Or rather, we didn't, for even in the best of times the ozone layer, being made of gas, has proved less than photogenic.

The Met men, nonetheless, wanted us to know that in places the ozone layer wasn't there at all. We had blown a hole in it with our *underarm deodorants and our* fancy cars. And then there was global warming, a related disaster, as a result of which the Earth would warm up and it would rain more often. More often? It hardly seems possible.

Oddly, the doom merchants have been silent through the wettest December since goodness knows when. Even as we welly our way through January, climatologists (halfway decent universities have a couple, self-respecting ones have a whole department) refuse to strut their stuff on the stage of Armageddon.

The reason is the truth. And the truth of this sloshing winter is that it is all got up by foreigners. Filipinos, if you must. What we are wading through is a meteorological Peking flu. The English weather, *per se*, is not at fault.

In June of 1991, Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted, and then some. It was a spectacular human tragedy and as such it was famous for 15 minutes. But, 30 months on, Pinatubo has come back to haunt the rest of the world. The result is running into your drains: or even worse, not running into your drains.

Phil Jones, of the University of East Anglia's climatic research centre, was a lead runner in the global warming stakes, which reached its peak in 1990. The work of Mr Jones and, in particular, Sir Crispin Tickell, formerly our man at the UN, is credited with the greening of Margaret Thatcher.

Jones and Co are sticking to their guns but ozone depletion and global warming are long-term phenomena, whereas a winter of discontent is but a passing *frisson*.

Mr Jones explains: "There has been a lot of press comment in America asking whatever happened to global warming? But the wet weather here and the excessively dry conditions in parts of California and Australia have nothing to do with that.

"Pinatubo is the culprit. The dust rises in to the upper atmosphere and the effect is a warming one. And the Earth's radiation balance changes, which, as temperatures start to cool back, leads to extremes of weather. The normal airstream flow around the globe is west-east but in conditions like these you get more of a north-south flow and that obviously influences weather patterns."

Even before the eruption, warming was evident, with 1990 and 1991 being the warmest pair of years ever recorded: compared with the average for the period 1950-79, global temperatures in those years were 0.4 and 0.35 centigrade above average respectively.

But part of the effect of the eruption at Pinatubo is shown by the statistics for 1992 and 1993, when the average was exceeded by 0.19 and 0.27 centigrade. Now temperatures are cooling again.

This tends to make for a confusion of signals between volcanic eruptions and global warming, which reinforces the split in scientific circles about the extent of the warming process. Forecasts in the late Eighties had the polar ice caps melting and flowing down the streets of Norwich; subsequent estimates say that for that to happen temperatures would have to rise far higher than even the most alarmist predictions.

There is even a view, supported by research at Edinburgh University, that global warming could cause ice caps to get thicker rather than thinner, thus reducing sea levels rather than increasing them.

The reason is that higher temperatures at the poles would increase snowfall and lead to more ice, not less. This theory is attractive to mere mortals because it encourages more complacency, not less.

For the time being, we can wallow in the twin British satisfactions of bemoaning the weather and blaming foreigners, even if the foreigners in question can hardly help it. Indeed, they may well regard wading through Chichester as an easier option than living under a volcano.

As for the chances of scorching summer to compensate for present horrors, nobody is willing to put a wet shirt on it. As with politics, a week in meteorology is a long time. June is a light year away.

There is, however, a small portion of recent history smiling on people who prefer Factor 25 to a mackintosh. Indeed the real message of the Great Wet Out may be good tidings for all but the water boards and those who obsessively hose their plants every time the sun puts in an appearance.

The present downpour roughly follows the pattern of the mid-1970s and mid-1980s. Those spells were followed by a brief drought in 1975-76 and a much longer one between 1988-92.

In fact Mr Jones says that prolonged droughts in Britain tend to outlast prolonged wet spells. Better check the standpipes haven't sunk without trace.

Little things, little minds

Why do the institutions of state bother with video games and radio soaps?



LIBBY PURVES

It was that great political thinker Screaming Lord Sutch who first framed the question "Why is there only one Monopolies Commission?". Well he might: the Commission is displaying classic mad-monopoly behaviour itself, and tilting at increasingly bizarre windmills. Now, following a year of whingeing from disgruntled consumers with twitchy fingers and square eyes, it plans to "investigate" why video game cartridges cost up to £60 a throw.

The investigation might go quicker if some genius were to put down his Game Boy for a moment and explain to them that video games cost a lot because, er, that is what the market will stand. Nobody hypnotises people into buying them, nobody exploits hunger or thirst or illness. Punters go into shops, grumble, pay, then go home and play the games until they are bored. SuperMario and Sonic, Streetfighter II and Robocop are not essentials. They are frivolous luxuries, like perfume or camcorders. The reason they cost a lot is that the manufacturers have discovered that Joe Public GB is, for the moment, so taken with their cleverness and fun that he will pay £59.99 a dose. Observing this, the companies have decided to make hay while the sun shines, since the one sure thing is that this consumer lunacy cannot last forever. Even the children are growing bored with having to nag so long for every game. When sales fall, so will the price. I am no economist, but it sounds like that system we are all supposed to be so proud of: you know, the free market.

So why are the M & M dabbling in these frivolities at my taxpaying expense? Come to that, why is everyone in public life so damnably frivolous at the moment? Why do Cabinet ministers footle about trying to redefine their own slogans? Why do MPs leap on every stick thrown by bored journalists, demanding "full reports" on every odd-sounding decision made by a local probation officer or housing committee and picked up by a paper with space to fill?

Newspapers have a licence to focus on marginalia: they operate in a commercial world, and nobody forces you to buy them. Members of Parliament are meant to be serious representatives of us all, and it does not befit their dignity to run around like puppies after every mother-of-11 lobbed to them by the headline-writers. Even the Prime Minister recently wasted his breath in publicly attacking one small farmhouse therapeutic community in Wales, which he has never visited and whose record in preventing recidivism he has clearly never studied.

And why is the Home Secretary wasting my time answering letters from incredibly silly people in Lydd who want a fictional character from the Archers to be fictionally freed from a non-existent jail? (Myself, I am delighted to read that mischief-makers in Lydd have now produced stickers saying Hang Susan Carter Now). Frivolous, all of them. They might as well stay at home curled up with the new novel by Frivol Queen Edwina Currie MP, in which we are assured honourable members "bonk on Westminster Bridge to the chimes of Big Ben".

If public officials want something to get their teeth into, let them choose with care and hang on with dull persistence. Let them consider the price and marketing of basic things, such as food: or serious things, like European airline fares. Overpriced unhealthy food causes malnutrition and illness; artificially high air fares stifle business travel and impede exports. The only thing affected by people paying £59.99 for games about martial hedgehogs is national time-wasting. Come back, Lord Sutch. We need your statesman-like vision now.

TIMES READER OFFER: 20 PER CENT OFF SELECTED HOLIDAYS PLUS THE CHANCE TO WIN A MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE

Go Places holiday offer

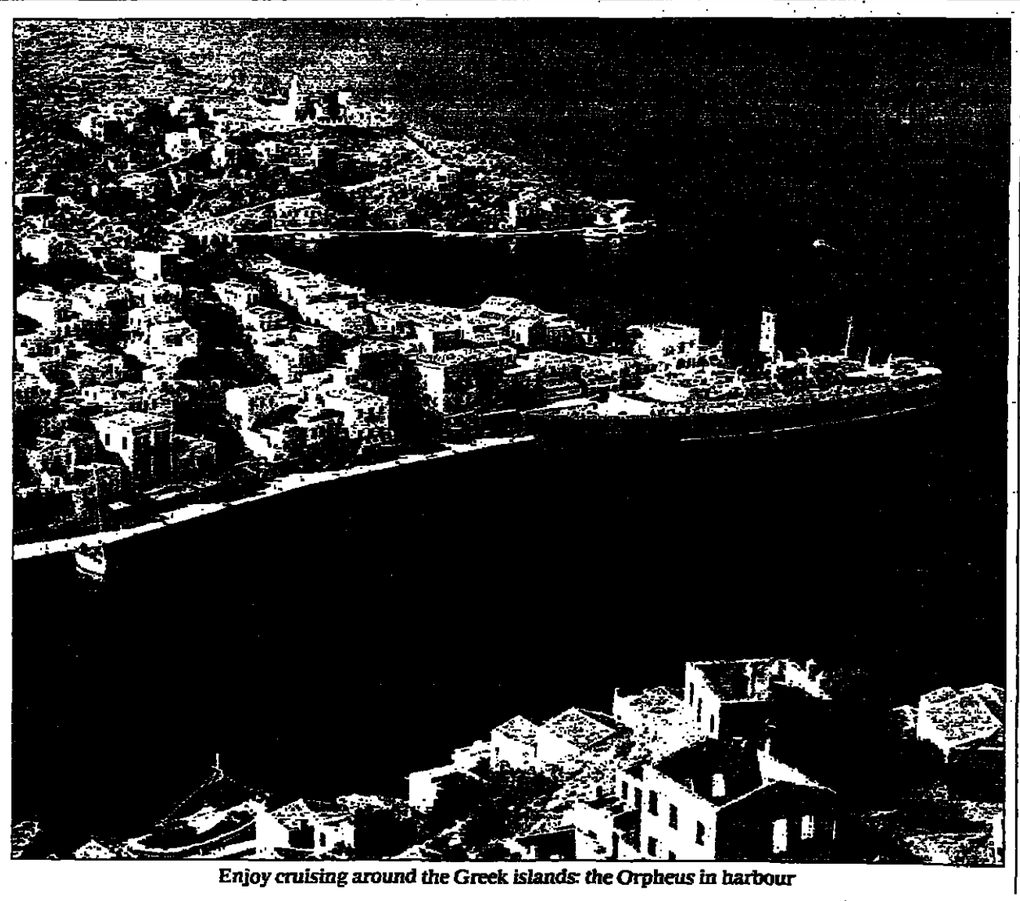
Following the success of last month's "Go Places" travel offer, this week *The Times* is repeating some of the holidays featured, giving you a second opportunity to save 20 per cent on some very special holidays.

You and your family can save 20 per cent per person from the cost of selected holidays worldwide. Within weeks you could be booking an idyllic beach hotel break, a cruise in the Mediterranean, a magnificent tour of India or an adventurous safari in Kenya. Two people could easily save from £100 to more than £1,000 on some holidays. Even groups are entitled to the 20 per cent saving. Many tours include five-star accommodation, transfers and sightseeing, even car hire, travel insurance and tipping.

Over the next five days, *The Times* will feature all of the holidays offered by the participating tour operators in this offer. Today readers are offered 20 per cent off the holidays shown below from Swan Hellenic. For further details, a brochure and a booking form, simply telephone 071-873 5005 or send a written request to: *The Times* Travel Offer, Cox & Kings, 45 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF, specifying which tour you are interested in.

Getting your discount is so simple: today and each day until Saturday, January 22, a special token will appear in *The Times* — six tokens in total. You need collect only three tokens to qualify for your 20 per cent discount. The discount applies to any number of people booking on any one tour operator's booking form.

- The holidays featured are from February 1994 to the end of December 1994, and you can choose any number of holidays, providing you have collected three tokens per holiday.
- The 20 per cent discount will apply to any holiday featured with no restriction on price.
- When you have chosen your holiday, complete the relevant tour operator's booking form and send it with the required deposit and three Times tokens to: *The Times* Travel Offer, Cox & Kings Travel, St James Court, Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF. Bookings must be received by February 28, 1994.



Enjoy cruising around the Greek islands: the Orpheus in harbour

Win a cruise worth £5,000

Starting today, and continuing over the next five days, *The Times* is offering readers the opportunity to win a holiday for two each day. You and a partner could be cruising round the Mediterranean, taking a Safari in Kenya, trekking in America or relaxing in the Caribbean.

Today, we are offering you the chance to win an all inclusive two week cruise with Swan Hellenic in the Mediterranean, worth over £5,000. Cruising from Venice around the Greek Islands to Istanbul on board the Orpheus. An experience not to be missed especially in early May when the temperatures are ideal for visiting the superb sites of Delphi, Olympia and Gallipoli. Included in the prize is flights, meals, excursions, guest lecturers and tipping.

To enter the competition simply answer the three questions printed below. Write your answers on a postcard with your name and address and send it to: *The Times*, Holiday Competition (Day 1), PO Box 223, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 1YF to arrive no later than February 2, 1994. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by this date and notified by post.

If you enter all five daily competitions, you can also enter our accumulator competition and win a luxurious all-inclusive beach holiday at Le Sport Hotel on the Caribbean Island of St Lucia. To enter the accumulator competition, answer the three questions published today. Make a note of the first letter of each answer. Do this each day and after five days you will have 15 letters which will reveal a phrase, the answer to the accumulator competition. Full details of where to send your entry will be published on Saturday, January 22, 1994.

Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.

DAY FOUR QUESTIONS

A. *Where in Turkey will you find the Library of Celsus?*

B. *Which large Italian city is close to Pompeii?*

C. *After which saint were the knights of Rhodes named?*

TOKEN No 1

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TOKEN

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2. All bookings should be received by February 28, 1994, by post only.

3. The discount is applicable only to the specific tour mentioned in *The Times* offer, and excludes any other holiday, insurance supplements, car hire (except where car hire is part of the tour offered), special excursions, amendments, surcharges, visas or cancellation charges.

4. Existing bookings cannot be taken over from other travel agents or operators.

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Departs 4 May 1994. From £1264 (down from £1580)
Savings from £316

THE ARTS OF IBERIA: A 15-day cruise from Nice to Spain and Portugal. Highlights include Granada and the Moorish architecture of the Alhambra; Cadiz; Lisbon; Vigo, for Santiago de Compostela and Seville.
Departs 13 July 1994. From £1224 (down from £1530)
Savings from £306

AEGEAN STEPPING STONES I: A one-week cruise visiting the Greek Aegean including Paros, Maxos and Apollo's island of Delos, then enjoy Olympia and the sites of ancient Athens.
Departs 24 August 1994. From £772 (down from £965)
Savings from £193

AEGEAN STEPPING STONES II: A second one-week summer cruise which combines swimming in the Aegean with visits to Rhodes; Chios; Symi; Thasos and Mytilene. The cruise ends in Istanbul.
Departs 31 August 1994. From £772 (down from £965)
Savings from £193.

ANCIENT HOLY LANDS A late autumn 16-day cruise to the the Red Sea visits Petra and the lands of the ancient Egyptians. See Luxor and Cairo followed by a cruise through the Suez Canal; then visit Jerusalem and the Sea of Galilee.
Departs 19 November 1994. From £1328 (down from £1660)
Savings from £332

SWAN HELLENIC

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RHINE-MOSEL CRUISE: This 10-day cruise between Arnhem in Holland and Basel in Switzerland includes Strasbourg, Heidelberg, Cologne, the Black Forest and the Mosel Valley.
Departs 2 May, 29 June 1994 (Arnhem-Basel). From £1320 (down from £1650)
Savings from £330
Departs 11 May 1994 (Basel-Arnhem). From £1320 (down from £1650)
Savings from £330

The following Nile cruises are on board the air-conditioned Nile Monarch, with accommodation for 70 passengers:
NILE CRUISE: This 17-day cruise between Cairo and Aswan includes the temple of Karnak, the tombs of Thebes, Cairo Museum and the Pyramids.
Departs 30 March, 12 October 1994 (Cairo-Aswan). From £1808 (down from £2260)
Savings from £452
Departs 6 June 1994 (Aswan-Cairo). From £1572 (down from £1965)
Savings from £393

UPPER EGYPT CRUISE: A 15-day cruise of Upper Egypt, visits The temple complex of Karnak, the tombs of Kings, Queens and Nobles on the West Bank and Abu Simbel. In Cairo see the museum and visit Giza for the Pyramids and Sphinx.
Departs 21 November, 30 November 1994. From £1680 (down from £2100)
Savings from £420

SHORT CRUISES BETWEEN LUXOR AND ASWAN: A nine-day cruise to the sites of Upper Egypt. Highlights include Luxor, for visits to the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Queens and Karnak Temple; and Aswan for Philae. In Cairo see the Pyramids at Giza and the Museum.
Departs 12 December, 28 December 1994. From £1036 (down from £1295)
Savings from £259

Browns Sale

When the young and trendy have tired of the utterly outrageous — they turn to the traditional

Pick up on the checks







Left: Check mini-kilt, £225, Burberrys, 18/22 Haymarket, London SW1; 165 Regent St, London W1; 39/41 Princes St, Edinburgh; 64 Buchanan St, Glasgow. Silver Lurex sweater, £19.99, Warehouse branches nationwide; argyle socks, £7.99, Burlington, branches of Sock Shop; silver sandals, £205, Jimmy Choo (071-249 2082)

Right: Check jacket £330, Burberrys; silver pleat mini skirt, £69, Whistles, 12/14 St Christophers Place, London W1; silver and pink Lurex knit slipover, £58, Diane Loney at Whistles; Burlington socks; silver and Perspex shoes, £110, Lawler Duffy, Jones 13 Floral St, London WC2 (071-923 2821)

Far right: Check-knit twinset: sweater £125, cardigan £135, Burberrys; black rayon micro shorts, £50, Future Ozbek, from a selection at Feathers, 40 Hans Crescent, London SW1; Lisa Sterling, 19 St Anne's St, Manchester; over-the-knee socks, £3.99, Sock Shop branches nationwide; black motorcycle boots, £59.99, Shellys, 266/270 Regent St, London W1; 42/46 Market St, Manchester and branches, mail order 081-450 0066.

Photographs: MARTYN THOMPSON. Make-up: Virginia Young. Hair: Howard Barr for Nicky Clarke using Nicky Clarke Hairomatherapy. Model: Liz Fraser

At the end of 1993, *I.D.*, the alternative style magazine, featured a fashion story entitled "New Looks for '94". Written by the fashion editor, Edward Enninful, the article looked forward not only to new fashion horizons, but also picked over the trends of 1993.

Enninful was disdainful of what he saw as the establishment's awkward attempts to embrace counter-culture, stick a price tag on it and call it "high fashion". "As the underground elements disappeared from deconstruction, so did all the good ideas", Enninful wrote, with the kind of certainty enjoyed only by the youthful.

However, it was not Enninful's post-mortem of 1993 which aroused interest, but his predictions for 1994. "I predict a hybrid of Rock and Classics", he wrote. "Names like Burberrys, Scotch House, and Pringle will be worn with old denim, mesh, silver jewellery, pop socks, and other rock'n'roll essentials. As fashion turns classic, non-conformists will interpret the uniforms of conformity in their own radical way." Well, you certainly don't come much more classic than Burberrys.



Fashion

IAIN R. WEBB

Burberrys are the biggest clothing exporters in the United Kingdom. Approximately 70 per cent of their sales are export, and the company has received five Queen's Awards for export since 1961.

Burberrys are well known the world over. So well known, in fact, that their name is included in the Oxford English Dictionary: "Burberry, n. A kind of waterproof cloth, coat etc. of this, made by a company of that name." Even though the rainwear represents less than 35 per cent of their total production, it is this which is synonymous with the name. Not, however, as instantly recognisable as Burberrys' house-check.

The red, black, and white plaid set against a beige background was introduced in 1924, and was originally used to line raincoats. Today it has become an unmistakable trademark, as distinct as the Coca-Cola flash logo, or Chanel's interlocked double Cs.

"The signature house-check has become an aspirational mark of identification throughout the many product ranges," says Stanley Peacock, the company's managing director.

As fashion's emphasis has changed from season to season, over the years, so the Burberrys' check has found itself covering all kinds of products: at the last count, more than 300 separate items. In 1967 it was used for an umbrella in a fashion show in Paris. It was an instant hit, and became a *de rigueur* accessory for the Parisian chic. Five years ago the French, again, took to wearing the Burberrys' house-check scarf, and last year in Japan, teenagers became enamoured with the Burberrys' sock. The fad swept the country, and the company sold more than 1.5 million pairs. "The plaid has regularly been a cult item for as long as I can remember," Mr Peacock says.

As the company celebrates its seventieth birthday, it must come as a pleasant surprise that the check should once again be receiving the attention of those who want to take Burberrys to the cutting edge of fashion. "In difficult times, good quality classic clothing always does better than high fashion," Mr Peacock says, adding that during such periods people tend to look for value for money through durability of style, fabric and make. "It is reasonable to assume," he says, "that a brand as well established, on a global basis, as Burberrys could be even more important as a fashion look than previously."

This is certainly logical, but it is doubtful whether the young and style-hungry readers of *I.D.* magazine will really be worrying much about such good old-fashioned concepts as "value for money" as they search for something new to wear. The young are nothing if not contrary. For unpredictable mood swings, only fashion can compare with them. Combine the young and fashion, and the results will often be startling.

Who would have thought that the plainly traditional plaid would find favour with fashionable young things? Ah, but isn't that exactly the point. It is specifically the comfortable, classic, establishment image of Burberrys which makes the check a perfect target for the fashion fan. There is nothing that delights the modish marauder more than to take something so achingly straightforward and unassuming, and turn it into a style icon.

Over the past decade we have seen various utilitarian items plucked from the wardrobe and dressed up as the future of fashion — witness the past flirtations with the parka, the white shirt, the plimsoll, and perhaps, most spectacularly of all, the humble T-shirt (almost always by Gap).

Sadly, there is a downside to the story. For, as quickly as style spotters find themselves a new label to show off, or a new item of clothing or accessory to shout about, they can just as quickly tire of it.

It is unlikely that this will worry Burberrys. During the 1980s the company added several new lines alongside their men's and women's ranges: children and babywear, a selection of foodstuffs, and the Thomas Burberry Collection aimed at a younger clientele. They already sell 350,000 traditional checked cashmere scarves (a year), and use approximately two million metres of check lining, each year.

It has become a status symbol for celebrities as diverse as Julie Andrews and George Bush, Meryl Streep and Michael Jackson. Models such as Veronica Webb are now wearing the Burberry look off duty. She was recently spotted teaming a house-check mini-kilt with a skinny rib sweater. The famous plaid now covers everything. Trousers, shirts, luggage, silk and chiffon scarves, watches, pens, dog-coats, and even fine foods.

To celebrate their anniversary, Burberrys have designed a new capsule collection which includes the wrap-over mini-kilt (the skirt shape for spring/summer 1994), fitted jackets, and twinsets for women. A selection of pieces for men and children looks like selling equally well. When the time comes, as it must, and the trendy fashion folk drop Burberrys in favour of the next best thing since . . . you can be certain that somewhere in the world someone will be picking up the check.

Browns Sale

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● THE high street store Oasis is introducing a range of washable suiting. A capsule collection of tailored jackets, trousers and skirts can be machine washed without worry, pressed lightly and look as good as new. "Wash and Wear" suiting will be available from selected branches of Oasis from February 14.

● Ralph Lauren, fashion and furnishings designer, has acknowledged his debt to American heritage with his involvement, as a sponsor, with the "American Museum in Britain" exhibition at Christie's, St James, London SW1. Quilts, woven rugs, blankets and Shaker furniture are just some of the items in the collection, which charts America's design history from the Puritans of New England to the Rococo revival. The exhibition closes on January 27 and is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 2pm to 5pm Sunday, closed all day Saturday. Admission free.

● Sam Walker, of vintage clothing fame, is inviting customers to exchange Aero leather jackets bought from his shop for a new one of their choice. Aero leather jackets are authentic recreations of 1930s and 1940s workwear jackets made with horsehide. Original vintage jackets can be bought from Sam Walker, 41 Neal Street, London WC2.

● Silver has ousted black, at least for this summer. Expect silver T-shirts, trousers, skirts and jewellery to grace the fashion glossies and the streets and in broad daylight (see shoes above). Best buys in silver can be found at branches of Warehouse, Whistles and Miss Selfridge.

● To commemorate an exhibition of Fabergé treasures at the V&A, Parfums Fabergé have created a new fragrance, Joyau ("jewel"). The scent will be available from selected stores and from the V&A shop, from £19.50. The exhibition, "Fabergé: Imperial Jeweller", runs from January 26 to April 10 and features more than 350 items created by Fabergé for the Russian Tsars, the royal families of Europe and Asia and the Russian Orthodox Church.

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3 NIGHTS £142-£177

The Francis,† Bath. Forte Crest, Birmingham. Forte Crest,† Brighouse. Forte Grand Queen's, Cheltenham. Blossoms Hotel,† Chester. Forte Crest, Gatwick Airport. The Swan, Grantham. Forte Crest, Guildford. Forte Crest, Hull. The Swan,† Lavenham. The White Hart, Lincoln. The White Swan,† Stratford-upon-Avon. Forte Grand Alveston Manor, Stratford-upon-Avon. The Old England,† Windermere.

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Matthew Parris



■ The beauty of Bolivia's hinterland is such that, when it traps you in its coils, you may not want to escape

Santa Cruz, in the Bolivian lowlands, is more like an independent city-state than a subsidiary part of a national map. A buccaneering place, where money is made, deals are done and questions are not asked, it is a frontier town with a Wild West feeling.

Here there is oil, cattle, coca; the whole of a vast, remote lowland region — jungle, marsh and grassland — lies at its command. Though sloths may hang from the trees, this is a town of big steaks, cold beers, guns and new Toyota Land Cruisers.

But then Bolivia is a country of city states: ancient, elegant Sucre with its nose in the air, full of cathedrals, chemists and attorneys; teeming La Paz, a manic jumble of skyscrapers, tin shacks, psychotic minibus drivers and Indian beggar-women, variously swanking, peddling or stinking, crammed into the basin of a great Andean canyon; sad, bleak Potosi, shivering astride an exhausted, mined-out silver mountain, once the highest, richest city in the world.

And finally Cochabamba: cool and sunny; half way up the Andes; above the mosquitoes but below the windswept high plains. Cochabamba is a lively and prosperous place, full of bougainvillea, opticians and hi-fi shops.

Five Bolivian cities. As different from each other in mood and time as any cities could be. Not only are their histories distinct, but they are geographically quite remote from one another. Jungle, swamp and mountain block your way. Road communications are arduous.

The rich fly, a tiny minority own cars, and the rest of Bolivia jostles at mega bus-terminals. A huge network of risk-taking, enterprising, endlessly ingenious bus operators, whose achievement should rank among the legends of transport history, grapple with washed-out roads and icy Andean passes to keep those who must, moving between cities.

And thus it is that I find myself: trying to get from Santa Cruz to Cochabamba. There is a new road — the old road was a punishing mountain grind — which skirts the Andean foothills, sticking on the jungle fringes as long as it dares (a couple of hundred miles) then assaults the Andes in one breathtaking rush, zig-zagging 8,000ft up to Cochabamba in less than 50 miles.

My bus company — Jumbo Bus Bolivia — is one of the few to undertake the trip by day (by habit, South America travels by night). Leaving Santa Cruz at 8.30am we were to arrive at about dusk, the driver told me: a small, jolly, middle-aged half-caste man in a blue cap.

The bus is a Mercedes, in decent order, but battered. The tickets cost the equivalent of £6.50. There are seats for all except the girl with her brother, and a kitten in a box, who got on half way and have spread out their old blanket on the aisle floor. It is not uncomfortable.

If — that is — one were in the bus. We aren't. I am on a rock in the jungle, 50 yards above the road. Or what was the road. Now it is a great gorge of mud, stones and splintered tree-trunks. A landslide has carried the road away.

Our bus is stuck in the middle. It tried to get through before the bulldozer had finished remaking the road. Forty vehicles await, at each side of the landslip. Five hundred people or more line the banks. The bulldozer driver, furious with our bus, is blocked from his work. Our driver is trying to cajole him into towing us through.

> 'A stream hops down in cascades: the stream that brought down the tons of rock and foliage which cut the road'

And it is such a beautiful day, and this is such a beautiful place.

The sky is the deepest blue, the sunlight sharp and clear. Shadows are lengthening and it is warm, damp, but not hot, just glowing with light. Above us, 10,000ft feet above us, the mountains sweep down in great green curtains, near vertical, clothed in jungle.

At my back a stream hops down in waterfalls and cascades: the stream that brought down the tons of rock, earth and foliage which have cut the road. Above the stream is a small grove of banana trees; nearby, a single Indian hut; beside it, flowering pink and scarlet hibiscus bushes and a papaya tree.

From the rainforest itself comes the scent of banks of white lilies, and on the hill opposite I can see myriad flowering trees, their names unknown to me.

Below us we can hear the deep rumble of a great river, in yellow-brown spate. We were following its valley. Strange birds call from the forest: one, a curious black creature trailing yellow legs as it flies from tree to tree.

You would only have to walk 500 yards into this, giant aspidistras blocking your path, vines and roots brushing your face, and you could be anywhere in the Amazon, lost — the bus, the road, the people, another world, closing its doors behind you, soundlessly.

And I am gripped by a mad desire that we might be stuck here, for ever. Mad, but — just as I write — very strong.

Two views of the trial by scandal of John Major and his Government

Missing the moral of wobble week

William Rees-Mogg

Last week was a horrible one for the Prime Minister, one of the worst in modern memory. It was not that all the damaging stories were important, but they were all negative. Each day's news reinforced the public impression that the Government is on the ropes: at any moment one thought that the referee — perhaps Betty Boothroyd — would have to intervene to stop the fight. It was a relief when yesterday's papers had no astonishing new revelations, no photographs of a minister dressed in a tutu swinging from a chandelier, and were reduced to publishing elaborate table plans of the farewell Downing Street dinner for Gus O'Donnell. The press does sometimes become confused between events which interest journalists and those which interest the public. In Somerset we know little of Mr O'Donnell: his career as Downing Street press officer has passed without much comment in the Ring of Bells.

Yet even in Somerset we have heard of adultery and of children born out of marriage. One of the reasons why the sexual scandals of ministers are so interesting to the public is that they refer to general experience. Very few voters have personal knowledge which allows them to form an expert judgment of the PSBR, the ERM, or even of Nato policy towards Bosnia. Yet every old woman in the country has had personal experience which allows her to form a judgment of the conduct of Tim Yeo, and of the conduct of John Major in dealing with the scandal. Something of the same sort will have happened in her own life, or her family's life, or her friends' lives. It is said that Mr Yeo was a good minister: I spend half my life writing about politics, yet before the scandal I have never heard anyone refer to his work as a minister, of which there can be few competent judges. Yet everyone feels able to form a view of his published conduct as a husband and father.

Scandal is concerned with universal experience and universal values. Last week the Prime Minister was asked on television whether he thought that adultery was wrong. He refused to give any reply, saying that he thought it was the wrong issue. Equally evasive replies have recently been given by other senior ministers to the same question: there seems to be a Cabinet policy that ministers should not express any opinion whether adultery is wrong or not.

As it happened, yesterday saw the publication in *The Independent on Sunday* of extracts from a survey financed by Wellcome, *Sex and the British*, which was based on more than 18,000 interviews. This gives a clear picture of the sexual conduct and principles of the British people. They are very tolerant of pre-marital sex, but strongly opposed to adultery, and most avoid it in their own lives. Fewer than one in 20 of married men, and fewer than one in 50 of married women, reported more than their one partner in the previous year. About 90 per cent of married men and 95 per cent of married women said that they had been faithful to their partners for the past five years. Adultery is rarer than we thought.

Conduct and attitude go together. "Only one person in 50 believes extra-marital sex to be not at all wrong. Some four out of five people — 79 per cent of men and 84 per cent of women — are of the opinion that it is always or mostly wrong." No doubt many people would qualify this judgment for one reason or another, but the view of the vast majority of people is that adultery is wrong. That makes it extraordinary that there should be a Cabinet policy not to say so.

The difference, both in attitude and conduct, between men and women is less than might have been expected. Both sexes are against adultery. In my experience, women do see the matter more vividly. They think of adultery in terms of its human consequences, of children brought up without a father, of older wives replaced with younger mistresses, of babies fathered by absent men. They see adultery as painful in the way terrorism is painful: it is like throwing a hand grenade into a crowded bar, and the wounds can remain unhealed for a lifetime. They find the male euphemisms for adultery infuriating. Women do not see fathering a child outside marriage as "an indiscretion", as "very foolish", as "a peccadillo", as "naughty". They see it as a failure to take responsibility for one's own actions; the need for personal responsibility was, in Mr Major's terms, the original core of the back to basics campaign.

On Saturday, the Archbishop of Canterbury said that adultery was a very serious matter, which the public plainly thinks it is, and that anyone found to be committing adultery should automatically leave the Government. I do not think that most people would go as far as that. For instance, two people who have been through the trauma of a failed marriage may meet and console each other. Their relationship might or might not lead to them marrying, but it is in itself adulterous. Most women, let alone most men, would have a good deal of understanding for that. Less certain is the case of the casual encounter, perhaps in a bar overseas, which is regretted the morning after. Most but not all wives would forgive that, at least once, and so would most constituencies. Adultery is wrong, but there are circumstances which extenuate or aggravate it. Most people would qualify the archbishop's rule by recognising that some adulteries do much more harm than others, and would make responses appropriate to the case. They would also recognise that some ministers do more good than others.

Last week destroyed the back to basics theme because, when it came to the point, neither the Prime Minister nor the Cabinet turned out to believe in it. Back to basics was a moral campaign not narrowly confined to sexual morality, but moral nevertheless. The Conservative Party, and particularly the women who do so much of the hard constituency work, breathed a sigh of relief to hear politics once again discussed in terms of personal responsibility rather than in acronyms and percentages. For the first time Mr Major had touched people's hearts.

That has all been thrown away. It is now pretended that back to basics never had any moral content, that we all made a silly mistake in reading morality into such phrases as "responsibility for one's own actions". Minister after minister has gone on television to deny that this is a Government concerned about morality; they say that they are just practical men, without an idea about morality in their pretty little heads, though of course they are tolerant chaps, and do not want to pry in their colleagues' bedrooms. They cannot say whether adultery is wrong or not; that is a matter of collective responsibility. Any minister who does say adultery is wrong must be a right-wing bastard trying to wreck the non-moral purity of the back to basics campaign. To say that adultery is wrong is prima-facie evidence of disloyalty to the Prime Minister's line.

Do intelligent Cabinet ministers, men of real quality like Douglas Hurd or Kenneth Clarke, fail to see what fools — what parodies of themselves — they appear? The country is yearning for leadership. The Labour Opposition is more feebly led than at any time since George Lansbury retired in 1935. Yet all leadership is moral leadership. Winston Churchill in 1940 did not tell us that defeating Hitler would reduce the inflation rate by between 1 and 2 per cent, or allow a 15 per cent increase in the construction of nursery schools. He appealed to the moral character of the British people, and he did not do so in vain. Now we have a Cabinet dedicated to the proposition that politics and morality have nothing to do with each other.

Not dead and not buried

Peter Riddell on why John Major should survive his present traumas



John Major did confide a state secret to me at the celebrated Downing Street dinner on Thursday. It was not his opinion of his Cabinet colleagues, or even the date of the next election. He explained the far more perplexing matter of how to tell the difference between the Bedser twins, Alec and Eric. This has been as impenetrable to cricket lovers since the 1940s as was the Schleswig-Holstein question in the last century, and the answer has similarly been known only to a privileged few.

The evening was a convivial farewell to Gus O'Donnell, Mr Major's long-suffering chief press secretary, who is returning to the Treasury. The hosts had every right to expect it to be a private occasion. But lurid accounts have appeared of attacks by Mr Major on right-wing ministers. Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons, who was present, has already denied these stories. For what it is worth, while several conversations took place, I never heard anything which would remotely justify the reports in *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail*.

Mr Major was in determined form. He believed, somewhat optimistically, that the worst of his problems was over. He was confident that sustained economic recovery would ensure the Tories' success at the next election. He was good-humoured, not angry: not a man about to be pushed out of office.

The flavour of the evening not only puts previous reports into context but also underlines the contrast between the mood in Downing Street and the feverish tone in many newspapers. The last rites were again being read over the weekend, as they were last June and September. They were premature then, and are likely to be now. There are two linked questions: how serious are the Tories' current difficulties and how far is Mr Major himself the cause, rather than just a symptom, of them?

The Government is in deep trouble with the public, its supporters and much of the media. Recent events are, with the exception of the row over Westminster council's housing policy, inconsequential. The names Yeo, Caithness and Ashby will be mere footnotes in any history. Such scandals are usually forgotten quickly. But the back to basics campaign has been thrown into disarray as erring politicians have looked like hypocrites.

Mr Major and his advisers are partly responsible for the confusion. The slogan was launched, without adequate discussion, to reunite the Tory Party after the Maastricht battles. It was always ambiguous. Although Mr Major never meant it to cover personal behaviour, some other ministers, and many Tory members, did, and do. This fuss should pass. While the slogan may cover everything the Government is doing, it should not be a continuing source of division, as Maastricht was.

The episode has, however, reinforced existing criticisms that Mr Major is weak and that his Government is incompetent, lacks direction and is sleazy. Most serious in the long term could be the district auditor's report on Westminster, still disputed by the participants. These events are corrosive evidence of a party which has been in office for too long. Michael Portillo's much-noted speech about a mood of cynicism and defeatism among the elite paradoxically confirms this impression, curiously so for a leading politician whose party has had nearly 15 years in power to shape opinion. It sounded more like the manifesto of a new Opposition leader.

A view that it is time for a change could be crucial in 1996-97, as it was in Labour's victory in 1964. That is why I am sceptical about those who argue that, if Mr Major is replaced, all will come right. The Tories' difficulties are much deeper than his personality and record. He has made several big mistakes, notably permitting too large an increase in public spending ahead of the election and issuing misleading tax promises in the campaign. He did not confront the Tory rebels over Europe early enough. He is too much of an instinctive whip and not enough of a strategist in translating his ordinary-man values into a coherent programme.

But he has, so far successfully, kept the Tories in office well beyond the natural life of past administrations. His primary achievement, for which many of the Thatcherites cannot forgive him, was to reunite the party after November 1990 and lead it to an unexpected victory in April 1992. Since then he has had to combat the forces of staleness, arrogance and complacency inherent in longevity in office.

The Scott enquiry into the Iraq arms affair — to which Mr Major will give evidence today — is just one example of past errors coming back to haunt the Government. The row over City regulation following the admission that hundreds of thousands of people received inadequate advice in switching from occupational to personal pensions will have a political fall-out going far beyond the business pages.

Mr Major is not a helpless victim. He will be held responsible if the Tories lose. But replacing him will not guarantee victory. The 1990 trick cannot be repeated. A senior former minister who has little reason to back Mr Major believes another leadership change could be fatal, not just exposing Tory wounds but confirming the growing public view that the party has been in government for too long.

The Tories' predicament was summed up by Douglas Hurd on Friday. He noted how there was a feeling around the world that politicians had lost touch with those whom they serve — in Italy, France, Germany, Japan, Canada and America. Mr Major, he said, had "bucked that trend when he won the election of 1992". But just as the Tories found out in September 1992 that governments cannot resist the markets for ever, so they may find that it is impossible to buck the trend of political opinion for ever — whoever is Prime Minister.

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

News at No 10

AFTER that party on Thursday night, a distraught Gus O'Donnell is counting the days until he escapes to the Treasury. But his big evening did not start off badly.

The outgoing press secretary drew up the guestlist of 32 to tuck into the gravalax and roast saddle of lamb, washed down with Château Talbot '82, around No 10's stateroom table. No seat for Gordon Greig, the *Daily Mail*'s veteran political editor — but then he didn't do John Major any favours on that Far East trip, did he. Instead Greig's deputy, John Deans, made it as secretary to the Westminster Press Gallery. Nobody from *The Sun* or the *Daily Mirror*. And, at first glance, ITN was overrepresented. There was Sue Tinson, associate editor, plus Michael Brunson, its political editor. But Brunson was a last minute invitee because he is the new Lobby chairman.

Some journalists now suspect colleagues may have misheard private comments by Brunson on Major's opinion of his right-wing ministers, although there is no evidence of this. Brunson certainly did have a role. To him fell the onerous task of proposing the toast. With hindsight, he may have been over-effusive in praising O'Donnell's success in healing relations between the press and No 10 in the post-Thatcher era. Sir Bernard Ingham, seated next to him, seemed to find the compliments particularly hilarious.

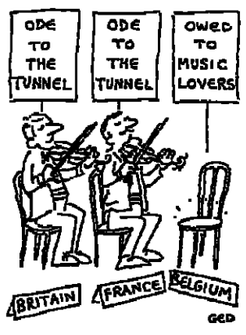
Brunson went on to recall the Lobby's white-water rafting trip during the Commonwealth summit in Zimbabwe. O'Donnell still keeps the photo in pride of place on his mantelpiece. Spotting some crocodiles, Gus remarked that he was surrounded by reptiles even there. At least they didn't have tape recorders.

Sounds off

BEETHOVEN'S *Ode to Joy* — the anthem of the European Union — is not good enough, apparently. Three composers are being sought, one British, one French and one Belgian, to think up original scores to mark the opening this spring of Channel tunnel services from Waterloo.

Finding renowned French and British composers should not prove too hard. After all, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber has French counterparts in Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg, writers of the musical *Les Misérables*.

A real coup would be to bring Pierre Boulez, leader of the French avant-garde, out of retirement. He has a counterpart in Sir Harrison Birtwistle, the Lancasterian avant-garde composer who, in true entente cordiale spirit, lives in France. As for the Belgians: the last famous composer, César Franck, died in the 19th century.



DIARY

● *IRA prisoners in the Maze already enjoy privileges unheard of in mainland jails: single cells, individual television sets and home leave at Christmas. On their latest list of demands, a few lines below political status, a new item appears: Sky satellite dishes. To watch those All-Ireland sporting fixtures no doubt.*

Lady Bountiless

WHATEVER happened to the great Thatcher campaign for the Tories? John Major's men proudly proclaimed last October that her ladyship would single-handedly fill the party's empty coffers by holding fund-raising dinners. Since then, nothing: not one sliver of undercooked duck (or even overcooked chicken) has passed the lips of potential donors on behalf of the Tories' £19 million overdraft. "She is still going to do them," insists Central Office. "But there is nothing penned in yet."

Well, actually, she will be fund-raising. Only not for the Tory Party. She has agreed to speak at the Republican National Committee's benefit dinner in Washington on February 3 to mark the 83rd birthday of Ronald Reagan. Tables cost $15,000 each.

Her acceptance has not gone down a bomb in Smith Square or Downing Street as Lady Thatcher's superstar status threatens to eclipse the Washington visit by her successor a fortnight later for talks with President Clinton. It's not even as if Ronnie's party needs the money. A Republican aide boasts: "Financially we're in great shape."

● *During a weekend visit in his Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire, constituency, Kenneth Clarke talked eagerly of his plans to streamline the tax system to make it "straightforward and free of loopholes". None of which went down too well with the Chancellor's hosts — the city's leading accountants, Ernst & Young.*

View halloo

THE HUNTING fraternity is fighting back fiercely against baying county councillors. The Masters of Foxhounds and *Countryweek Hunting* magazine have launched a competition to highlight the ways in which hunting improves prospects for wildlife. "The competition is intended to show the public the practical work hunts do to preserve the British countryside," explains Edmund Vestey, the association's chairman. Entries from the landed aristocracy are pouring in. Not surprising, as the contest calls for examples of "deliberate areas of neglect". They just have to prove they do nothing.





Hamwee and Carnarvon will sit on the committee

The GLC empire strikes back

THE House of Lords has never really forgiven Margaret Thatcher for abolishing the GLC. If you recall, the Upper House spat out her first Bill in disgust. Now a high-powered group of peers has set up a cross-party Lords Committee for London. The timing — a few months before the capital's local elections — has not been lost on ministers.

Founder and chairman will be Lord Carnarvon, and those GLC exiles Lord Plummer of St Marylebone and Lord McIntosh of Haringey will sit beside an ex-minister who wielded the axe against the authority, Lord (Patrick) Jenkin of Roding. Women peers are represented by Labour's Baronesses Jay and Hollis and the Liberal Democrat, Lady Hamwee. Whether our minister for the capital, John Gummer, will appreciate their advice is doubtful, but Carnarvon says: "We lack knowledge of the problems of London because there is no focal point. Before you could have gone to the GLC. But we want to be helpful."

A NOTE OF PROMISE

President Clinton must make good his Atlanticist pledge

Armed with unexpectedly detailed promises from Syria's President Assad, Bill Clinton ends his first seriously testing appearance on the international stage on a high note. His charm, readiness to listen and politician's instinct for tightrope-walking has impressed the Old World; and his European début has been an undoubted success with his home audience.

But as his hosts, from Brussels to Moscow, put his many promises, exhortations and messages of encouragement side by side, they may wonder whether domestic reaction was his main preoccupation, rather than a genuine re-engagement of America as a European power. There were fine words, as when the President declared in Brussels that he had come "to declare and to demonstrate that Europe remains central to the interest of the United States" and to insist that "none of us can afford to be bystanders" in the "race between rejuvenation and despair" in the formerly communist world.

But in the same breath, Mr Clinton acknowledged that "our bonds with Europe will be different" and stressed that Europeans must themselves take the primary responsibility for political, economic and social integration America emphatically wished to promote. As if to underline the gap between this comforting vision and Europe's harder realities, differences between Boris Yeltsin and Yegor Gaidar, the architect and symbol of economic reform in Russia, erupted yesterday before Mr Clinton had even recrossed the Atlantic.

Will these new bonds be strategic or merely symbolic? Mr Clinton claimed that America's commitment to Europe's safety and security was "as strong as ever", but pledged only to keep "roughly" 100,000 US troops stationed there. Is America still ready, at the last, to fight whoever would threaten Nato's peace? The jury, absorbing his praise for a more robust European defence identity and the novel American enthusiasm for grafting Nato's operational capacity onto the Western European Union, is still out. His administration put admirable energy into devising, and selling, its Partnership for Peace; but the extent of American determination to give it serious practical substance is difficult to assess.

At the Nato summit, Mr Clinton was clearly out to restore confidence that America is intent on keeping the enterprise in business, surmounting the grave risks over Bosnia. But having added demands in Brussels concerning Tuzla and Srebrenica to its unmet August ultimatum on Sarajevo, Mr Clinton's solemn warning that Nato must not threaten without following through will face an early encounter with reality. Nato will continue to lack credibility, so long as Bosnia burns while it appears to hide behind the skirts of the United Nations.

Even the reorganisation of Nato into "combined joint task forces" (CJTF), useful tool that it could be for involving non-Nato Europeans in joint peace-keeping, has a double edge. By making alliance machinery available for operations which do not involve the full Nato apparatus, the CJTF could make an arms-length American role in managing regional instability easier to justify. Given the evidence that Western Europe is still utterly dependent on active American leadership, this whiff of disengagement remains troubling.

Mr Clinton left other questions in his wake. Inconsistencies abound: are the Czechs and Poles to believe that their entry to Nato is subject only to sorting out "when and how", given the much more cautious terms in which he couched the new Partnership for Peace to Boris Yeltsin in Moscow? Are free traders to be reassured by his appeal for a swift ratification of the Uruguay Round, or dismayed by his public empathising with Jacques Delors on worker protection? His lectures to the European Union on trade with Russia and Eastern Europe, however sound, were promptly put in perspective by Sir Leon Brittan: Eastern Europe's exports to the EU, he said, grew by 83 per cent between 1989 and 1992. To the US, they fell by 9 per cent. The EU imported 300 times more than America from the former Soviet Union.

Against these doubts, Mr Clinton can — if it holds — set Ukraine's agreement to scrap its nuclear arsenal as a solid achievement. He will hold his breath that his summit with Boris Yeltsin has helped fend off the political rout of Russia's reformers. As for the Atlantic alliance, he has barely begun to repair the deep damage it has sustained over the Balkans. For Nato to meet the challenge of what one of his senior officials calls "the unfreezing of history" in Europe, Mr Clinton will need to reinforce his proclaimed Atlanticism once he is back in Washington.

HOME TRUTHS

The search for scandal should not obscure sound policy

John Major's "back to basics" campaign has proved to be much less than the sum of its parts. In many areas, ministers are indeed trying to bring policy into line with common sense and to address the concerns of ordinary citizens. This is true of Michael Howard's reforms of the criminal justice system and the police service; it is also true of the proposed changes to the national curriculum. There is a risk that promising measures will be completely obscured by the storm of speculation and intrigue which the government has brought upon itself.

Many of the accusations made against Conservative politicians in recent weeks have concerned housing policy. Last week's damning report on Westminster Council by the district auditor claimed that the local authority had sold council houses to secure political advantage in marginal wards. Similar allegations of gerrymandering have now been levelled at Wandsworth Council, another Tory flagship. These charges, if true, must be accounted for in full by the councillors involved.

Yet the charges are an indictment of individual local politicians, not of the national policy which they allegedly abused. Nor has that policy been discredited by any of the allegations which have been made about council house sales. During the 1980s, the proportion of privately-owned homes rose from 57 to 68 per cent of the housing stock; more houses passed into private hands between 1979 and 1982 than in all the years since the second world war. Thousands of families have been given greater independence and mobility. In the mire of petty scandal, it is easy to forget the striking success of the "right to buy" legislation. Those who remain homeless would be better served by radical reform of the private rental sector than by any decline in public confidence in the sale of council houses.

Amongst the citizens who have benefited from this legislation are Alan Duncan, the Conservative MP for Rutland and Melton, and Teresa Gorman, who represents Billericay. Mr Duncan loaned his neighbour the money to buy a council house which he then bought from him. Mrs Gorman acquired the freehold on two townhouses in Westminster in 1982, having bought the leasehold on both properties five years before. Both politicians, it has been suggested, abused the public trust in so doing.

Yet there is as yet no evidence that Mr Duncan or Mrs Gorman broke the law or benefited from privileged information. It may be argued that, as affluent, successful people, both defied the spirit of the law by profiting from council house sales. But such transactions should not be the stuff of scandal; nor should they disqualify politicians from holding public office. To prohibit Tory MPs from buying local authority houses would be no less absurd than to prevent them sending their children to opted-out schools. Politicians are perfectly entitled in their capacity as ordinary citizens to benefit from the policies they support; to suggest otherwise is mere cant.

BEYOND A BOUNDARY

Cricket is a binding force in the West Indies

The English-speaking West Indies, the once tragic "isles of Caliban", has blossomed in unsung ways. Two things set it apart from the others in the Caribbean: its devotion to cricket, and its commitment to democracy. England's cricketers will lock horns with teams of vivid skill and talent in eight different countries, all ruled by elected governments in the Westminster model, and all to a degree politically stable. The islands — and Guyana, although in South America, must count as part of the West Indian cultural 'archipelago' — have outgrown their wretched history of slavery and indentured labour. The plantations have loosened their grip on the lives of people and it is cricket, not sugar, which unites the West Indies.

So it should be. The ignominious failure of the West Indies Federation in 1962 taught the people of the region a simple truth: cultural affinity does not always make for political union. For while the feeling that "we is one" is strong, so too is island loyalty. The people of the region prefer their union to be subtle, and cricket is a fine vehicle for those aspirations. The West Indies exists on the cricket field, and in the minds of men, just as a united Ireland exists on the rugby ground. Until the appointment as captain of Frank Worrell, teams from the Caribbean were prone to regional tensions and cliques. These questions were exacerbated by the vexed issue of colour. But Worrell, the first black man to lead a West Indian team, welded the men from a myriad islands into a cohesive unit. As the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, Michael Manley, wrote in his masterly *History of West Indies Cricket*, "the politicians of the West Indies drew no discernible inspiration from the success of Worrell's side."

Cricket plays a central role in West Indian society. Its body of laws, as well as the tacit codes that go with it, have helped define the attitude of citizens to public order and social responsibility. This society is also deeply religious and highly literate. These factors have helped to protect democracy, even in difficult times. Contrast this with Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. None of them has ever enjoyed a genuinely democratic period, and Fidel Castro, Joaquín Balaguer, and Raoul Cedras cannot be voted out of office. Most importantly, cricket has never been played in Havana, Santo Domingo or Port-au-Prince. The game is not, of course, a panacea. But its absence does impoverish society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Scott enquiry's search for truth

From His Honour Judge Roger Sanders

Sir, Lord Howe's outburst at the Scott enquiry (report, January 13) should not have come as a surprise to anyone who has been closely observing the antics of the present and former governments.

Sadly, some members of the public appear to have perceived the judiciary to be a wing of the Conservative Party. Some party members seem to expect the Bench to endorse their policies but also to condone their mistakes. They show their contempt for the legal process and even some of those in office appear to imagine themselves above the law.

Perhaps it is time for politicians to consider the implications of attitudes similar to those of Lord Howe and realise that they are accountable for their actions like any other citizen.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SANDERS,
1 Garden Court, Temple, EC4.
January 13.

From Mr Lionel Bloch

Sir, One can see Lord Howe's point when he claims that "this is not so much an arms-for-Iraq scandal as it is a British trade control dilemma". Similarly, one could describe a bank robbery as a money-removal dilemma. After all, the perpetrator has to weigh up the benefit of enjoying the loot against the risk of being caught.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BLOCH,
9 Wimpole Street, W1.
January 13.

From Mr David Pappin

Sir, The vision of Britain, through the Scott enquiry, donning her hair shirt and washing her dirty linen in public is depressing.

Whilst "open government" is in theory very laudable, I believe most of our citizens recognise that there are, in the interests of our country, times when matters of state have to be managed covertly and without publicity. It seems fairly obvious that the delicate subject of arms to Iraq came into this category.

What good is going to come out of this enquiry?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PAPPIN,
Hatchford Farmhouse,
Ockham Lane, Hatchford, Surrey.
January 13.

From Mr Kenneth Baker, CH, MP for Mole Valley (Conservative)

Sir, Your report (January 12) of my evidence to the Scott enquiry says I "signed two public interest immunity certificates designed to prevent official documents from being released in court . . . ".

The certificates were not concerned with documents, since I was not seeking to protect any, but were directed at oral evidence in court in the committal proceedings of the three Matrix Churchill defendants and in the trial of the Ordtech company executives.

As your report made clear, I was concerned that witnesses called for the prosecution or the defence in cross-examination might mention, for example, the names, addresses and the methods of operation of agents and informants, the methods of operation of the security service, or sensitive technical matters.

This debarral was not absolute: I was indicating to the judge through these certificates that there might be a danger to national security. It was for the judge to balance the interests of national security against those of the administration of justice to see whether such information should be protected.

Yours truly,
KENNETH BAKER,
House of Commons.
January 12.

Floods in the South

From Mr Edward Mills

Sir, In response to letters (January 10, 11) on the current flooding in the South, I would ask: should we not consider the opinion of the experts (in this case the National Rivers Authority) and concede that they may be correct in stating that, technically, there is still the possibility of a water shortage next summer?

A large percentage of water supply in the South East of England is derived from aquifers which can take several years to replenish themselves once "normal" rainfall has been resumed after several years of drought.

Mr Tony Wood (January 11) is correct in stating that droughts have recurred through the ages and will happen again. However, the shortage is partly due to the excessive demands made by those with two cars to wash each week, extensive gardens to water and kitchen appliances which use large quantities of water.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD MILLS,
322 Oldham Road,
Rishworth,
Halifax, West Yorkshire.
January 12.

From Mr Edgar Brennan

Sir, Why do rivers keep "bursting their banks"? Can't they just overflow?

Yours faithfully,
EDGAR BRENNAN,
12 Cantley Gardens, SE19.
January 10.

Debate on lowering age of consent

From Mrs Catherine Lawson

Sir, Members of Parliament are expected to be asked later this month to vote on the age of consent for homosexual men. The likeliest choice exists between retaining an inequitable status quo or allowing the passing of a law that gives adult male citizens of the United Kingdom the freedom legally to express their sexuality regardless of their sexual orientation.

To allow a man to vote and even die for his country but to deny him his right to fall in love with the partner of his choice is an unjust, moral anachronism that must be repealed.

This is an occasion for our representatives to pass legislation commensurate with a modern, progressive democracy. Whilst institutionalised prejudice continues to exist, we will never have a society that advances solely through excellence and merit. Our goal should be to build a more tolerant, understanding and accepting community.

Yours sincerely,
CATHERINE LAWSON,
8 Selwyn Close, Cambridge.
January 9.

From Mr Terence Dear

Sir, If there were any truth in the statement that "most people do not develop their adult sexuality until after the age of 18 (Dr Harding Price's letter, January 12) Parliament would surely have to consider raising the age of consent for *everyone* to 21. Otherwise, to paraphrase your correspondent, young adults will "become fixated mentally and sexually and may not go on to find a same-sex partner as they would normally have done".

Some homosexuals succumb to social pressures to marry and have children, against their natural orientation. Often, they live double lives throughout marriage; otherwise, they may attempt to sublimate their natural desires only to have them break out later. Either way, the result can be public scandal and distress for the family.

Hopefully, Parliament will vote to end the proscription on the lives of British adult males between the ages of 16 and 21. This should be followed by the revocation of the notorious clause 28 (in what became the Local Government Act 1988) on prohibiting the "promotion of homosexuality", so that all children and young adults can receive academically sound teaching about sexuality in general.

Yours faithfully,
T. DEAR,
Tyning House, Radstock, Bath.
January 12.

From Dr Michael Black

Sir, Dr John Harding Price asserts, without evidence, that for most people adult sexuality does not develop until after the age of 18.

He may be unaware that the Royal College of Psychiatrists as long ago as 1976 supported an equal age of consent of 16, and reaffirmed this decision recently in the context of the current debate. As a psychiatrist concerned with children and adolescents who has made a study of the subject I fully support the college's decision.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BLACK,
3a Gayton Road, NW3.
January 13.

From Mr B. M. N. Clarke

Sir, Against the principle of equality of opportunity must be set the principle that it is wrong to treat similar people dissimilarly and dissimilar people similarly. Boys often develop more slowly than girls and may remain uncertain for longer about the nature of their sexuality.

They need more time and are entitled to a different degree of protection.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN CLARKE,
38 Wingate Road, W6.
January 14.

The ethics of IVF

From Dame Mary Donaldson

Sir, Seven years ago the Interim Licensing Authority for Human In-vitro Fertilisation and Embryology, which I chaired from 1985 to 1991, decided to amend its guidelines to reduce the maximum number of eggs implanted to three in any one treatment cycle [letters, January 1, 4, 5, 8, 13]. Some clinicians felt that we were thereby unduly interfering with their right to treat their patients as they and the patient wished.

Apart from the inherent danger to the mother and child in allowing a multiple pregnancy to occur, we felt that there was both a practical problem (a national insufficiency of neonatal beds for the care of premature births and multiple births) and an ethical one — i.e., the practice of selective reduction whereby, following the implantation of a large number of fertilised eggs, the embryos' growth could be watched, the weaker ones selectively destroyed, and only the stronger were left to survive. This improved a woman's chance of becoming pregnant.

In the case of a multiple birth which occurs naturally, we felt that it was ethically unobjectionable to perform selective reduction, with the parents' consent; but that to deliberately produce an abnormal number of eggs, fertilise them and then implant them with a view to selectively reducing the number was absolutely unethical.

Many centres now implant only two fertilised eggs and I believe a few just one. If a clinician abuses his right of decision over treatment by adopting what is generally found to be an ethically unacceptable method, the public quite rightly asks for further controls.

Yours faithfully,
MARY DONALDSON,
c/o The Guildhall Club,
Guildhall, EC2.
January 1.

From Rabbi Dr Nisson E. Shulman

Sir, Judaism has long wrestled with issues that relate to the use of foetal eggs and ovarian tissues for implantation and transplant. Recognising parenthood as a blessing and humanity as God's partner in the work of creation, it welcomes medical advances in the treatment of fertility.

But there must be limits if our most fundamental values are not to be put at risk. Childhood is set in the ethical context of the family, the sacred bond uniting personal identity, love and nurturing.

For that reason, while Judaism is generally sympathetic to treatments which allow an otherwise infertile couple to conceive, it is opposed to the use of donated sperm or ova. This breaks the genetic connection between parents and child and introduces confusion at the most basic level of identity and relationship.

May we bring a child into the world who can say "I am" and cannot answer the question "Who am I"? It is this, rather than the age of the host mother or the colour of the baby's skin, that is the central ethical question to be addressed.

Yours sincerely,
NISSON E. SHULMAN
(Cabinet Member (Medical Ethics)),
Office of the Chief Rabbi,
Adler House, Tavistock Square, WC1.
January 5.

Appeal of the pipes

From Colonel D. R. Wilson

Sir, I enjoyed your leader, "Eleven pipers piping" (January 5), which affectionately acknowledged the lasting appeal of the bagpipe [also letter, January 8], although I admit, as you pointed out, that this is not universal.

However, I must reassure your readers who are piping enthusiasts that the Army is not reducing the pipes and drums of the Scottish regiments to two, as you state. Those that are being reduced are the seven military (brass and woodwind) bands that the battalions of the Scottish division have enjoyed in the past. The pipes and drums will remain, not only providing the morale-raising inspiration that you recognise but also taking their full part in the operational strength of their battalions, normally as machine-gunners.

In addition, although I did not actually have to pay the pipers, I did once call the tune and therefore would advise those with that privilege not to confine their enjoyment of piping to the lochside as you suggest.

While I agree that the haunting notes of pipes from across the loch have their own magic, the "total immersion" of listening to the pipe major's pibroch around the dinner table or the exciting frenzy of four pipers playing reels and jigs on the dance floor are experiences that ought not to be missed if one wishes to understand the full power and repertoire of the instrument.

Yours foot-tappingly,
DONALD WILSON,
Ministry of Defence, Whitehall, SW1.
January 5.

A different legal world

From Mr Ian McLachlan

Sir, The comments attributed to Anthony Scrivener (report, "QC backs Ambridge One", January 8) reveal the enormous gulf that exists between the fashionable and high-profile cases he appears in and what most of the legal profession have to deal with.

Mr Scrivener may have clients sentenced on Monday and before the Court of Appeal on the next Wednesday but for most defendants that is impossible, particularly in the few days before Christmas.

As for those hordes of barristers sitting in their chambers just before the festive season waiting to take on cases without payment — not in the world I and most of the country's solicitors and barristers live in.

Yours faithfully,
IAN McLACHLAN
(Solicitor),
12 Church Green East,
Redditch, Worcestershire.
January 9.

Unsolicited services

From Mr Mark Halsey

Sir, Now that "personal services" cards plague telephone kiosks in many towns and cities, may I suggest a new home for them: the nearest litter bin (after first tearing them in half, to avoid embarrassment and a possible misunderstanding).

Yours faithfully,
MARK HALSEY,
3 Hare Court, Temple, EC4.
January 14.

CrossRail project 'vital to London'

From the Director General of the Institute of Directors and others

Sir, We are concerned that there has still been very little progress on the CrossRail Bill since the organisations which we represent last signalled their support for the project in your paper (letter, May 19, 1993), suggesting that this project, more than any other, is vital for the future of London as a world-class capital city approaching the 21st century.

The present transport infrastructure will not be able to meet the increased demands placed on it by the growing economy in the South East. The project will, as it is presently planned, relieve many congestion problems on the existing transport infrastructure in central London. More importantly, it will link the Thames Valley and the Thames Estuary via the West End and the City.

The House of Commons committee considering the CrossRail Bill is due to reconvene on January 25, and we are anxious that the promoters of the Bill and the petitioners are allowed to start presenting their respective cases.

The chairman of the committee considering the Bill has made it clear that he will not tolerate further delay lightly. If the Bill were not to proceed, the project would, at the very least, be put back five to ten years, if not lost altogether. No one would gain from this.

We in the private sector wholeheartedly support the Prime Minister's demonstrated commitment to the project. It must not be jeopardised.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MORGAN,
Director General,
Institute of Directors,
DAVE ALLEN,
Chairman,
DHL International (UK),
PHILIP BECK,
Chairman, John Mowlem & Company,
PATRICK GILLAM,
Chairman, Standard Chartered,
ALLAN GORMLY,
Group Chief Executive, Trafalgar House,
M. R. HOFFMAN,
Chief Executive, Thames Water,
ANDREW HUGH SMITH,
Chairman, London Stock Exchange,
EWEN MACPHERSON,
Chief Executive, 3i Group,
M. G. NEWMARCH,
Group Chief Executive,
Prudential Corporation,
TONY PALMER,
Chief Executive, Taylor Woodrow,
PETER WALTERS,
Chairman, Midland Bank,
c/o Institute of Directors,
8 Pall Mall, SW1.
January 13.

Down memmers lane

From Mr Richard Packard

Sir, Further to your correspondence about the late Brian Johnston (January 13) on "Johnners speak", when I was a boy at Harrow School in the 1960s the following terms were in common usage: eccer was exercise; ducker, the school swimming pool; sicker, matron's sickroom; reader, the house library; yarder, courtyard cricket; footer, Harrow football; and rugger and soccer as per usual.

I have every reason to believe that these terms are still in use.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
RICHARD PACKARD,
96 Harley Street, W1.
January 13.

From Mr Stuart Hill

Sir, They may call it soccer down at the Cavalry and Guards Club (Mr Jonathan Harrison's letter, January 13), but up here in the Crown pub we call it football.

Yours faithfully,
STUART HILL,
34 Broomfield Road,
Heaton Moor, Stockport, Cheshire.

From Mrs Maureen Cooper

Sir, As a Fleet Air Arm wife in the Fifties, I was twice "Harry preggers".

Yours faithfully,
MAUREEN COOPER,
Choseley Cottage,
Bledlow, Princes Risborough,
Buckinghamshire.

From Mr Alan Sykes

Sir, When I was based in the Far East a few years ago I was told by a fellow expatriate to come to "cockers in honkers at the pen". I later discovered that this was an invitation to come to and drink a cocktail in Hong Kong at that colony's Peninsular Hotel.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SYKES,
Martlet,
East Fourstones, Northumberland.

From the Reverend Dr W. G. East

Sir, My old theological college in Oxford (St Stephen's House) is to this day known to its inmates as Staggers; when I was there, I thought them all bonkers, though thankfully I do not recall seeing any of them starkers.

Yours truly,
W. G. EAST,
Saint Luke's Church,
Pallion, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear.
13th Janners.

Business letters, page 34

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 15: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the Wales versus Scotland Rugby International Match, Cardiff Arms Park, Cardiff, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR).

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 16: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Ely preached the Sermon.

Mr R A Potts (Headteacher of St George's Church of England V.C. Middle School, Dersingham) was received by The Queen when Her Majesty presented a Bible to Miss Victoria Vernall for proficiency in Religious Instruction.

Mrs Annabelle Galletley was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 16: The Princess Royal, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended a Special Constabulary Book of Remembrance Service in Coventry Cathedral and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

School news

Canford School
Easter Term at Canford School began yesterday. Natalie Collison is Head of School. The School Musical *Man from La Mancha* will be performed on March 20, 21, 23 and 24. The 13+ Music Scholarship examinations take place on January 31 and February 1, the 13+ Academic Scholarship examinations on February 28, March 1 and 2 and the 13+ Art Scholarship examination on March 3. Term ends on March 25.

St Catherine's School, Bramley
The Bishop of Guildford will lead a special Sung Eucharist at St Catherine's School, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey, on Sunday, March 6, to celebrate the centenary of the consecration of the Chapel. The Service will begin at 10.30am and be followed by a buffet lunch in Speech Hall. Former pupils, staff and friends of the School who would like to be present are asked to write to the Headmaster for an invitation.

St Dunstan's College
Lent Term began on Monday, January 10 and will end on Wednesday, March 23, Exeat being from Friday, February 11 to Friday, February 18, inclusive. J.A. Jordan continues as Head of School. The Spring Concert will be at the Lewisham Theatre on Wednesday, March 9, the Senior School play *Macbeth* will be performed on March 2, 3 and 4 with the Preparatory Department production of *Arthur* on March 19, 21 and 22. The inspecting Officer for the CCF's Annual Review on Monday, March 7 is Commander N. Overington, BSc, RN, OD (The Captain, HMS Edinburgh). The College Entrance Examination will be held on Tuesday, January 25.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Fairfax, 3rd Baron Fairfax of Cameron, parliamentary commander in the Civil War, Denton, Yorkshire, 1612; Benjamin Franklin, statesman, scientist and printer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1706; Charles Kean, actor, Waterford, Co Waterford, 1811; Konstantin Stanislavsky, co-founder of the Moscow Art Theatre, Moscow, 1863; Mack Sennett, film producer and creator of the Keystone Cops, Richmond, Quebec, 1880; Sir Compton Mackenzie, novelist, West Hartlepool, 1883.

DEATHS: John Ray, naturalist, Black Notley, Essex, 1705; T.H. White, novelist, Piraeus, Greece, 1964.

Nature notes

SHORT-EARED owls are wintering on east coast estuaries and on the South Downs, and may turn up in a stretch of open country anywhere. They come out to feed late in the afternoon, hunting for voles and mice with a hesitant flight full of half-rolls and glides. Two kinds of bunting from the Arctic are also to be found here and there on the east coast. A flock of snow buntings in flight look like a shower of snowflakes with their white wings and breasts: they settle to look for seeds in the dunes, and are often very tame. Lapland buntings feed in similar places, running like mice among the low plants. They look like female reed buntings with a short tail and a red nape, but they have a distinctive, clear whistle.

Several ferns are still growing vigorously. The long, twisted leaves of hartstongue hang from walls now dripping with moisture. The common polypody grows on drier walls and mossy treetrunks: its leaves are like long green fish bones. Male fern, or male buckler fern, is much larger than these and is at present looking rather battered, but many of its bent and broken fronds are still green.

DJM



The short-eared owl

STEPHEN MARKESON



Children at Long Melford's After School Kids Club, where they can play and join in activities with friends

Villagers solve an after-school problem

BY JOHN YOUNG

LONG Melford, in Suffolk, is one of England's most famous *villages, and understandably* so. With a population of some 4,000, it is large enough to be considered a small town, its broad main street is lined with picture postcard pastel-washed houses and cottages, and its huge, sloping village green is crowned by the great cathedral-sized church of the Holy Trinity.

But it is not immune to the problems of other rural areas, such as a general lack of social and recreational facilities. Many residents commute to nearby towns, and a big problem for working parents was arranging after-school care for their children.

A public meeting early in 1990 revealed the scale of the problem, a parents' committee was established, and the Melford After School Kids' Club (MASK) came into being in September the following year. It was one of the first to be set up in a rural area.

Occupying two rooms in *the old schoolhouse, it pro*vides supervised care and activities for up to 24 children at a time. There are 150 children aged five to 13 on the register and, as well as opening every evening during term time, the club offers all-day care during the holidays and organises excursions. "Children far prefer coming to a place like this where they can be with their friends to staying at home with a childminder," Sally Wiseman, play co-ordinator, says.

The club employs two paid staff and about 15 volunteers. So far part of the cost has been met by grants, including £2,000 last year from the BBC Children in Need Appeal. The *Consortium on Opportunities* for Volunteering has guaranteed Ms Wiseman's salary for three years, and the district council has agreed to pay fees for parents on low incomes.

But Heather Laurie, one of the founder parents, accepts the need for future vigorous fund-raising if fees are to be kept at their present low level. "The rural idyll is a bit of a myth," she says. "We may have green fields outside the back door, but we don't have a lot of other facilities, and we have to work hard to provide them for ourselves."

Community Enterprise Award winners

A HOUSING estate on Merseyside, a shelter for the homeless in Bath, a business centre in Northern Ireland, a walled garden in Sheffield and a community centre in the Outer Hebrides are among the winners of the 1993 Community Enterprise Awards announced today. The awards are sponsored by *The Times* and Business in the Community.

Nearly 400 projects were entered, and in a message the Prince of Wales, patron of the awards, says that they draw attention to what energetic and committed people are achieving and help show others what can be done.

The awards are divided into five categories, and the ten winning projects are:

Housing and homelessness (sponsored by Charlwell Land and the Housing Associations Charitable Trust):
Hallwood Park, Runcorn, Cheshire. Replacement of the former Southgate housing estate with 240 new houses, bungalows and flats.
Julian House, Bath, Avon. Night shelter and day centre for the homeless.

Rural Issues (sponsored by *The Times*):
Melford After School Kids Club, Long Melford, *Suffolk (see report above).*

Improving the local environment (sponsored by TSB Bank):
Hillsborough Walled Garden, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. Conversion of a derelict site into a public amenity.

Business development and training (Sponsored by United Biscuits):
Kingsridge Cleddans Economic Development Group, Drumchapel, Glasgow. Business centre with shops, offices, workshops and other facilities to relieve unemployment.
Derrygunnelly Old Creamery Development, Co Fermanagh. Redevelopment of redundant creamery buildings as a business centre.
North Mersey Business Centre, Knowsley. Creation of 32 office and 33 industrial units for local firms, providing 170 new jobs in 18 months.

Community Buildings & Facilities (Supported by The Prince of Wales' Institute of Architecture):
Spamount & District Cross-Community Hall, Castlederg, Co Tyrone. Old recreation hall *refurbished as community centre by Protestants* and Catholics working together.
Community Links, Canning Town Centre, east London. Conversion of old public hall into centre for large local charity.
Scalpay Community Centre, The Isle of Scalpay, Harris, Outer Hebrides. Replacement of crumbling village hall by a new multi-purpose centre for the 400 islanders.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony in Cardiff on March 1. Full details of the winning entries and commendations will be published in a special report in *The Times* on that day.

Marriages

Mr S.D. Barrowcliff and the Hon Alina Stonor
The marriage took place on Saturday in the Chapel of the Blessed Trinity, Stonor, of Mr Simon Derek Barrowcliff, youngest son of Dr and Mrs Derek Barrowcliff, to the Hon Alina Mary Stonor, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Camoys. Father Peter Knott, SJ, and Father Gerard Egan officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by William Hyde Parker and Eleanor Hyde . Mr Peter Barrowcliff was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Captain M.C. Page, RM, and Miss R.L. Fielding
The marriage took place on December 18, 1993, at St Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich, of Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Page, and Rachel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fielding, both of Norwich. Canon David Sharp and Dom Richard ffield, OSB, officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Jessie Clarke, Harriet Foster, Rachel Freeman and Edmund Page. Major J.D. Page was best man.

The reception was held at Norwich Castle.

Mr J. Ardron and Miss A.R. Kelly
The marriage has taken place in Canada, between Jeffrey, eldest son of Mr and Mrs M. Ardron, of Toronto, and Anna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Dermot Kelly, of Gloucestershire.

Mr A.H. Pearson-Gee and Miss G.S. Temple
The marriage took place on January 15, in Norton, Powys, between Mr Andrew Pearson-Gee and Miss Georgina Temple.

The bride was given away by her brother, Mr William Temple, and was attended by Katie and Alicia Tomkinson. Major William Pearson-Gee was best man.

Today's royal engagement

The Prince of Wales, as Honorary Commodore of HM Coastguard Service, will visit the Aberdeen Coastguard at Blaikies Quay, Aberdeen, at 4.00

Latest wills

Lt Col Sir Eric Charles William MacKenzie Penn, of Anstruther, Fife, Assistant Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Office 1960-64 and Comptroller 1964-81, left estate valued at £481,073 net.

Rosemary Olive, Baroness Hamilton of Dalzell, of Bramley, Surrey, left estate valued at £857,866 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.E.M. Brotherton and Miss J.C. Allaway
The engagement is announced between James Edward, eldest son of the Archdeacon of Chichester and Mrs Michael Brotherton, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Allaway, of Hythe, Hampshire.

Mr J.A.J. Charlwood and Miss A.S. Millar
The engagement is announced between Jeffrey, elder son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Charlwood, of Calne, Wiltshire, and Amanda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Millar, of Fletching Common, East Sussex.

Mr M.S. Daiches and Dr A.F. Dudley
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr Lionel Daiches, QC, of Edinburgh, and Mrs Dorothy Daiches, of Chelsea, and Annabelle, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Dudley, of Hampstead.

Mr M.G. Eleftheriadis and Miss R.J. Chittleborough
The engagement is announced between Mark George, son of Mr Aristedes Eleftheriadis, of Canada, and Mrs Doreen Eleftheriadis, of Sutton, and Rowena Jane, youngest daughter of Rev Canon and Mrs Gordon Chittleborough, of Blackheath, London.

Mr M.P. Geake and Dr C.T. Ransome
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Tony and Coral Geake, of Holne, Devon, and Claire, daughter of Fred and Mary Ransome-Smith, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr J.W.L. Hall and Miss J.M. McKey
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs *D. Hall, of Glen Innes*, NSW, Australia, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.D. McKey, of Ealing, London.

Mr D.A. Halliwell and Miss C.J. Beecham
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of the Rev Michael and Mrs Halliwell, of St Brelade's Rectory, Jersey, and *Caroline*, younger daughter of Mrs Peter Noll and the late Mr Leslie Beecham, and stepdaughter of Mr Peter Noll, of Adderbury Grange, Oxfordshire.

Mr F.G.B. Horton-Fawkes and Miss N.J. Brown
The engagement is announced between Guy, eldest son of Mr Nicholas Horton-Fawkes and the late Mrs Audrey Horton-Fawkes, of Otley, North Yorkshire, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Brown, of Kingswood, Surrey.

Mr C.N.R. Hutton and Miss M.C. Askew
The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mr and Mrs R.B.M. Hutton, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and Melissa, younger daughter of Sir Bryan and Lady Askew, of Tadcaster, North Yorkshire.

Mr N.C. Ingram and Miss N.R. Woolf
The engagement is announced between Nigel, youngest son of the late Mr and Mrs George Ingram, of Folkington, Sussex, and Nicola, only daughter of Mr Maurice Woolf, of Cannes, France, and Mrs R.W. Merrick, of Elston, Nottinghamshire.

Mr R.M.C. Jones and Miss N.C. Knight
The engagement is announced between Robert Mark Clive, second son of Mr and Mrs Colin Jones, of Le Taillis, St Martin, Jersey, and Nicola Carolyn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Knight, of Astley House, Trinity, Jersey.

Mr C.R. Jacobs and Miss A.E.A. Gordon
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs John Jacobs, of London, SW11, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Gordon, of Weybridge, Surrey.

Mr P.C.M. Morris and Miss K. Keogh
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and the Hon Mrs David Morris, of Exeter, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Keogh, of Westpalstown, Old Town, County Dublin.

Mr R. Parsons and Miss C.Tuckey
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Parsons, of Putney, London, and Camilla, daughter of Sir Simon and Lady Tuckey, of Camden Town, London.

Mr Y.D. Schwarz and Miss Z.M. Thompson
The engagement is announced between Yann Dominique, son of *Mr and Mrs Arthur Schwarz*, of Auckland, New Zealand, and Zoë, elder daughter of Major and Mrs Nicholas Thompson, of Higher Came, Dorchester.

Mr O.W.C. Schofield and Miss J.K. Jensen
The engagement is announced between Oliver William Chisholm, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Schofield, of Farnham, Surrey, and Julia Katrine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Jensen, of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr W.J. Summerhayes and Miss J.M. Kent
The engagement is announced between William John, only son of Mr and Mrs A.F. Summerhayes, of West Quantoxhead, Somerset, and Janet Mary, daughter of Mr M. Rees and Mrs A.J. Kent and stepdaughter of Wing Commander A.J. Kent, of Pitney, Somerset.

Mr M.E.V. Wakefield and Miss L.K.E. Pipe
The engagement is announced between Maximilian Edward Vereker Wakefield, The Kings Royal Hussars, elder son of Sir Humphry Wakefield, Bt, of Chillingham, Northumberland, and of the Hon Mrs Sam Abel-Smith, of Langham, Leicestershire, and Lucinda Katharine Elizabeth, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs David Pipe, of Windlesham, Surrey.

Mr R.W. Younger and Miss E.L. Smeaton
The engagement is announced between Robert, youngest son of Mr Gavin Younger, of Earlston, Berwickshire, and Mrs Diana Younger, of Midlam, Selkirkshire, and Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Tom Smeaton, of Woodhouse, Leicestershire.

Birthdays today

Mr Muhammad Ali, boxer, 52; Sir John Boyd, diplomat, 58; Sir Malcolm Chaplin, chartered surveyor, 60; Sir Michael Clapham, former chairman, IMI, 82; Sir Mervyn Davies, former High Court judge, 76; Sir Edward Fennessy, radar pioneer, 82; Mrs Monica Furlong, writer, 64; Mr Neil W. Gamble, headmaster, Exeter School, 51; Mr James Earl Jones, actor, 63; Lord Joseph, CH, 76; Mr Anthony Kenney, obstetrician and gynaecologist, 52; the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, 52; Mr Tony Mullins, jockey, 32; Sir Geoffrey Pattie, MP, 58; Professor W.B. Robertson, histo-pathologist, 71; Mr Vidal Sassoon, hair stylist, 66; Miss Moira Shearer, ballerina, 68; Professor Sir David Smithers, radiologist, 86; Mr Clyde Walcott, cricketer, 68; Mr George Walker, governor, Styal Prison, 57; Dr Gillian Weir, organist, 53; Mr Paul Young, singer, 38.

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Let all mortals be silent in the presence of the Lord! For he has bestirred himself and come out from his holy dwelling-place.
Zechariah 2:13 (REB)

BIRTHS

ARGENT - On 3rd January at St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, to Emma (née Walker) and Gavin, a daughter, Nicola, a sister for Annabelle and Katherine.

DIXON-GREEN - On January 7th 1994, to Anne (née Staddon) and Simon, a daughter, Polly Angela.

MERRETT On 8th December 1993, to Sandra and Paul a daughter Alexandra Maria - Elizabeth.

SMITH - On January 10th in Winchester, to Dee (née Hartigan) and Patrick, a son, Oliver, brother to Alexander and Winnie (Woof).

STONE - On January 10th, to Nicola and Andrew, a son, Wesley James Cressey.

DEATHS

ARMITAGE - John Wallis (University of Birmingham) suddenly aged 55 years on January 11th 1994. Beloved husband of Sue and much loved father of Thomas and William. Funeral Service at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Birmingham, on Friday January 21st at 2 pm. Family flowers only please. donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation, 16 The Ropewalk, Nottingham NG1 5DT.

ARRANDALE - Anthony John On January 4th suddenly whilst on holiday in the Far East. Funeral service at Chelmsford Crematorium on Thursday 20th January at 12 noon. No flowers by request. donations if desired to the Franciscan Convent, Bocking, Braintree Essex.

BOESEN - On January 14th 1994, peacefully at home. Alfred Jens Peter. Greatly loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

BROOKES - On Saturday 8th January, suddenly but peacefully at home, Albert Edwin (Teddy) in his 86th year, beloved husband of Doddles for 64 years. Dear father to Jacqueline, Jocelyn (Ted), Lalage, Roland, Harley, Nyalo, Stephanie, Linda, Timothy and Nicholas. You are already sadly missed by everyone. Funeral Service at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on Friday January 21st at 12 noon. Family flowers only please.

DEATHS

CASHFORD - On January 12th, William George Charles (Bill), a most loving and much loved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral Service at Bournemouth Crematorium on Wednesday January 19th at 12.15 pm. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, for R.N.L.I. may be sent c/o F.W. House and Sons, Funeral Directors, Lymington, Hampshire.

CORKE - On 14th January peacefully at The West Suffolk Hospital, Martin Dewe Corke DL OBE aged 70. Private funeral for family only. No flowers donations to Friends of the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds. The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust or Friends of the West Suffolk Hospital. Memorial service to be announced.

FAIREST - Barrie Ingram LDS. Dentist to the Islands from 1960 - 1993 at home in the Isles of Scilly beloved husband of Alex, caring father of Mark and Peter and loved son of Agnes. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service at Methodist Church Isles of Scilly on January 21st at 11am. Donations if desired to Barclays Bank for S.S.A.F.A. or Fire Brigade Benevolent Fund.

HEDLEY-SAUNDERS - On January 6th of Manningo Heath, formerly of Balcombe, West Sussex, Major Frederick, O.B.E., D.C.M., T.D., aged 77, late of 4th County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) and H.M. Foreign Service, devoted husband of the late Joanne, adored and admired father of Carole (Devlin), *Hedley and Victoria Kate* (Hirst), in accordance with his wishes cremation has already taken place.

KEAY On 19th December 1993 Mr Anthony Keay aged 74 died after a long illness at the Fitzroy Nuffield Hospital. The funeral was held at St James's Church Spanish Place London and he was laid to rest at Blackmore Park Church, Hanley Swan Worcestershire.

KINSEY - On Sunday January 9th 1994 after a long illness, Ada, widow of Dr. E.W. Kinsey, beloved mother of Reginald and Derek, sister of Iris (South Africa). Sadly missed by all the family and many friends. Resting at D.J. Evans Forse, The Whitchurch Funeral Home, Cardiff, until the Service at Thornhill Crematorium Chapel on Wednesday January 19th at 1 pm. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home or donations if desired to The Alzheimers Disease Society, Heol Don Resource Centre, Heol Don, Cardiff CF4 2XC.

DEATHS

MURTON - On 13th January, suddenly but peacefully, Alice Mary aged 86. Beloved sister, aunt and great-aunt. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Frensham, on Tuesday 25th January 1994 at 3.15 pm. She requested no flowers please.

OLIVER - On 13th January *1994 peacefully at Orgreave* Hall, Alrewas, Burton on Trent, Elizabeth Norah (Betty) Oliver (née Sanderson) aged 87. Widow of Basil and much loved mother of Phillip and Andrew and grandmother of Katrina, Jeven and Lynda. Funeral Service at Lichfield Cathedral on Wednesday January 19th at 11 am, followed by private cremation. Donations if desired to St Giles Hospice, Whittington, Lichfield.

PEILE - Faith Octavia Whitfred (née Hoare), wife of John and mother of Andrew, Felicity, Katharine, Richard and Edward. Died peacefully at Kilfillan House Nursing Home, Berkhamsted, on 13th January, aged 84. A Service of Thanksgiving will be announced later. Donations if desired to Y.W.C.A., Pelle *House c/o Tedor, Sandygate* Park, Sheffield, S10 5TZ.

POLLARD - Basil John. On 14th January 1994, dearly loved husband of Catrin and beloved father of Jane (Polly). Funeral service on 20th January at 12 O'Clock St James' Church, Sidwell. Flowers may be sent to P. L. Barrett, Funeral Directors, 81 Ock Street, Abingdon or donations if desired to the Stroke Association CHSA House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ.

RUSSELL - Angela Mary (née Thomason) on 14th January 1994 at home near Whitchurch, Shropshire, aged 60, after a long illness. Beloved wife of Anthony and mother to Guy, Joanna, Emma, William and mother-in-law to Julie. Much beloved and sadly missed sister and friend to many. Requiem Mass at St George's Church, Whitchurch, at 12 noon on Friday 21st January followed by cremation in Wrexham. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Foundation or the MacMillan Fund.

SEYD - Anne, suddenly at home on 13th January. Beloved mother of Simon and Peter Meredith Hardy and devoted grandmother. Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 21st January at 3 pm at St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst, Kent.

DEATHS

SLATER - On January 13th 1994, after years of illness, borne courageously, Barbara (née Huddleston). Beloved sister of Trevor, dearly loved mother of Ann and Frank, loving grandmother of Mary, Emma and Joseph and delightful great-grandmother of Harry and Jessica. Requiem Service at St Thomas Church, Northaw, Potters Bar, on Monday January 24th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations to Action on Addiction (cheque only) c/o C.A. Nethercott, 150 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 1AF tel: (0707) 662288.

SUTCLIFF On Friday 14th January 1994, suddenly but peacefully at home in Mull, Commander Edward Sutcliff OBE DSC RN retired aged 82½. Much loved and missed already.

WHITE - On 14th January 1994, peacefully in his sleep in his 98th year, Peter Francis White Lt Col RE Rtd OBE. Husband of the late Eleanor Joan (Nee Ellis). Funeral at 11am Church of the Ascension, Prince of Wales Road, London E16 Friday 21st January 1994. Family flowers only. Donations please to the Royal British Legion.

WHITWORTH - Evelyn Mary, died in Eastbourne on 13th January 1994. Much loved by many friends and sadly missed by Peter and Gillian. No flowers by request, donations to Devonshire Nursing Home c/o Severns Funeral Directors, 17 Hyde Road, Eastbourne, tel: (0323) 736446.

WINSLADE - On Wednesday 12th January 1994, peacefully at South Court, Castle Cary, Somerset, Walter Newton (Bob) aged 93 years, formerly of Hong Kong Police. Sadly missed by his son Richard, family and friends. Funeral Service to be held at the Chapel at Castle Cary Cemetery at 2.30 pm on Friday 21st January. All enquiries to South Court, Castle Cary, Somerset, tel: (0963) 351440.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GUMERSALL - Arthur, formerly of Gumersall, Palmer Moss. Memorial Service to be held on Tuesday 8th February 1994 at St Martin's Church, Epsom at 1 pm. Enquiries to Longhurst Undertakers, 8-10 Pound Lane, Epsom, tel: (0372) 723549.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HOLDSWORTH - A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Lady Patricia Holdsworth will be held at St Pauls, Covent Garden, London WC2, on Friday 28th January, 1994 at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

OWEN Jason Matthew Dale, aged 5 years, of Penarth. In loving memory of Jason. Darling youngest son of Dale and Maureen, brother of Justin and Julian and Grandson of the Late Charles and Evelyn Kelly. After 6 weeks in Cardiff Royal Infirmary died tragically on January 17th 1984 from H.U.F. (Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome), a cruel illness courageously endured. Whilst suffering from this illness in the Infirmary, Jason said "I like to be nice to People". So grievously missed by his family and friends.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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OBITUARIES

FRANK McEWEN

Frank McEwen, OBE, artist, teacher, administrator, and the founding Director of the National Gallery of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) died in Ilfracombe, Devon, on January 15 aged 86. He was born on April 19, 1907.



Frank McEwen with an African Bateleur Eagle which he called Chapungu after its Shona name

IF EVER a book is compiled of the good deeds of the white man for the black in the twilight days of colonialism, Frank McEwen's name should be inscribed there — though his is a story beyond race and skin colour. His life was devoted to the belief that the highest spiritual values lie enshrined within every individual, and that creating art can draw them out — and especially from the untrained.

Francis Jack McEwen grew up with a collection of West African art, much of it of high quality, which his father had picked up as curios in the course of business trips there. He went to Paris in 1926 to study art history at the Sorbonne and the *Institut d'Art et d'Archaeologie* under Henri Focillon, who was a pioneer in the study of so-called "primitive" art. Focillon was much admired by living artists and this led McEwen to friendships with Brancusi, Braque, Matisse, Picasso and Leger. He also absorbed the great respect of these artists for the teachings of Gustave Moreau, who had died in 1898, and who believed in drawing out of people an art which was individual to themselves.

Focillon advised McEwen, with these interests, to be a man of action in art, rather than a lecturer. McEwen decided to be a painter, quarrelled with his family, was left without a sou, and set out on his wander-years, working his way around the museums of Europe by menial work at power-stations. He spent most of 1928-29 working in Flanders, and painting in his spare time — wild flowers were his speciality, since they sold quite well: he exhibited back in London at the Goupil Salon and the New English Art Club.

Returning to Paris, McEwen, with Focillon's help, apprenticed himself to an art restorer, working on Louvre pictures, and soon had a studio in Paris and his own restorer's business. In 1939 he moved to Toulon and started an art workshop — strictly for the untrained — on Gustave Moreau's lines. After the fall of France in 1940 McEwen sailed by fishing boat to Algiers, believing that the French colonies might hold out.

He was soon disillusioned but his contacts with the Resistance and the French government-in-exile enabled him as a fluent French speaker to join Allied Forces Headquarters after November 1942 as a civil assistant to General Innes Irons. In January 1945, while the war was still on, he joined the newly-created British Council. Among the first questions that arose for it was that of an appropriate exhibition of British art for France, something that the chauvinist French art world of that day would not laugh at. McEwen's solution was a show of some of Herbert Read's child art collection, largely gathered from Marion Richardson's Moreau-type experiments in teaching — and ahead of French practice at the time. McEwen selected about 60 of Read's thousand or so, with an eye to the School of Paris point of view — some like little Matisses, Bonnards, even Picassos and Legers; such non-national art was an enormous success, even tempting Brancusi out of his studio as well as Picasso and Bonnard.

After this good start for Anglo-French relations, London inflicted a show of modern British artists which was a dismal failure. Then McEwen's introduction of Henry Moore, who had been over to Paris to stay with him three times, to Picasso, Braque, Brancusi, and the leading French critics and museum administrators, led to the show of Henry Moore in Paris at the end of 1945 at the Musée d'Art Moderne. This launched Moore's international reputation.

Shows of Turner (McEwen had helped put Turner watercolours between sheets of blotting paper at the Tate after the flooding of 1927), Blake, Sutherland and Chadwick followed. McEwen's belief that the way to support British art in Paris was to show French art simultaneously in London, worked well: Picasso and Matisse were shown at the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1945, Braque and Rouault in 1946 and Leger and Dufy in 1947. (The hundreds of letters of protest to *The Times* about the Picasso show caused much merriment to Picasso when McEwen translated them to him.)

Around 1952, McEwen felt that the School of Paris was getting trivial in its content. He had been taking more interest in African culture, and when the idea of founding the Rhodes National Gallery in Salisbury, Rhodesia, was formed, McEwen was consulted. He went out to Rhodesia for a month in 1954 for consultation. He found no art going on there, black or white, to impress him; and anyway, the intention of the museum's board was to stock it with European old masters. African art was not to be considered.

McEwen's past experience suggested to him that a gallery would only thrive on exchanges of art — that there had to be some sort of local art going on. When a director was subsequently sought — before the building of the gallery — McEwen applied, encouraged by Picasso and Herbert Read, and to his surprise was selected. He asked for a year's grace, resigned from the British Council, and sailed his beloved boat from Paris down the Seine to Mozambique via Brazil and round the Cape.

Sitting on the low foundations of the future National Gallery as it was being built, McEwen met Thomas Mukarobgwa, who talked to him about the Shona tribe, their religion, their dance, and their music. Since the authorities insisted that all the staff of the gallery be ex-policemen, McEwen got Mukarobgwa in as a cleaner, and gave him, and his friends who followed him, drawing and painting materials. Thus an unofficial workshop was formed in the basement. After about a year, the vigorous "Afro-expressionism" of the paintings was spontaneously superseded by carving in local stone — from soft soapstone to hard serpentine and verdite.

Joram Mariga was one of the first to attempt this and McEwen encouraged him and others to work from the Shona culture to find their themes and expression, discovering to his delight that the untrained carvers worked in the same way as Picasso, spending sometimes many days "dreaming" a sculpture complete in detail in three dimensions in the mind, and then executing it at great speed.

There was no interest from the white community, though when the workshop began to sell abroad via Lord Delaware, David Stirling and others, it was officially accepted by the museum board. Picasso continued to ask for photographs of the best work; and a trickle of international art experts to the gallery began. The first show of Shona sculpture in London was in 1957.

The National Gallery workshop thrived. There were shows at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1968, at the Musée Rodin in Paris in 1971 and at the ICA in London in 1972. But political tensions in Rhodesia were such that Frank McEwen resigned in 1973. Thereafter he lived on his boat in the Bahamas (with trips to Brazil, where he had become interested in possible ancient links between South American pre-Columbian, and African art) for ten years. Finally he returned to Devon and settled in Ilfracombe, not far from his childhood home.

During the 1970s troubles the Shona sculptors found survival difficult, and the new nation of Zimbabwe, founded in 1980, had other priorities at first. But as fortunes revived a little, the art world began to be shown, and take more notice of, Shona carving (which became broader-based as carvers from other tribes joined the workshops). World-wide exhibitions became more frequent; film crews began to beat a path to the cottage door of this almost forgotten figure in the late 1980s; and when 35 tons of stone sculpture were placed at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in a major exhibition of Zimbabwean stone sculpture in 1990, the exhibition had to be limited to the work of 36 major carvers working in Zimbabwe.

McEwen himself was content to put all this behind him and feed his beloved wild birds as they blew in to the cliff-top window of his ex-coastguard cottage. When pressed, his hope for the future was tinged with his fiery concerns about artistic "quality control" and the dangers of ideological suppression of the world of spirit which sustains African art.

McEwen was appointed OBE in 1963. He is survived by his wife, Ann, and a son from a previous marriage.

HARRY NILSSON

Harry Nilsson, singer-songwriter, died of heart trouble in Los Angeles on January 15 aged 52. He was born in New York on June 15, 1941.

A CONSIDERABLY better singer than he was a songwriter, Harry Nilsson became a cult figure of the late Sixties and early Seventies, partly from his association with the Beatles, particularly John Lennon. His two best-known songs — which brought him Grammys and his greatest commercial success — were ones he did not write. The atmospheric theme song "Everybody's Talkin' " for John Schlesinger's film of James Leo Herlihy's 1965 novel *Midnight Cowboy* was written by Fred Neil, while Tom Evans and Pete Ham of the British band Badfinger supplied him with his second big hit, "Without You". (Both men subsequently committed suicide in despair at what they considered their failure to win a decent share of the royalties from the song).

"Everybody's Talkin' ", which did much to establish the melancholy atmosphere which pervades the early scenes of *Midnight Cowboy*, represented Nilsson's singing talents at their most characteristic. Though born in Brooklyn he grew up as a singer on the American West Coast and his hallmark was the wistful, haunting type of ballad which was in vogue there.

He had moved to southern California with his family as a teenager and after finishing high school did various odd jobs in the Los Angeles area before settling down in the computer department of a local bank. There he worked for seven years but was, meanwhile, writing songs in his spare time. Signing a contract with RCA in 1967 he turned out a succession of



songs for groups like the Monkees and the Yardbirds.

But something more approaching critical acclaim came with his own album *Pandemonium Shadow Show* which sold poorly but caught the fancy of John Lennon in 1967. Lennon and Nilsson became close friends and the Beatle collaborated with Nilsson on his album *Pussy Cats* (1974). When Lennon was shot dead outside his New York apartment house in 1980 Nilsson led a crusade to make the US a safer place to live in. He travelled the country drumming up support for laws regulating handguns and in 1981 chaired the End Handgun Violence Week.

Nilsson also produced the soundtrack and original storyline for the animated cartoon *The Point* (1971) which was staged as a play with great success at the Mermaid Theatre, London, in 1976. Other film work included *Son of Dracula* (1974) in which he appeared with Ringo Starr.

Musically speaking, however, he had produced little of much value even by the standards of the genre since the mid-Seventies. Heavy drinking, drug taking and eating habits which always carried with them the threat, and frequently the actuality, of gross overweight, militated against the basic discipline required to get into the studio and lay down album tracks. The whoring, hell-raising image had become more important than the music and even his most devoted fans were forced to confess that the albums *Knilsson* (1977) and *Flash Harry* (1984) had become tiresomely hip and mannered. Recently Nilsson had performed little in public and never really recovered from a massive heart attack he sustained last year.

He leaves his widow Oona and six children.

MALCOLM ROSS

Malcolm Ross, the first headmaster of Crown Woods School, died on December 26 aged 83. He was born on June 8, 1910.

ONE of the most distinguished postwar head teachers, Malcolm Ross would have wished to be remembered above all for the foundation of Crown Woods. This Greenwich comprehensive school continues to flourish against the tide of demographic change and educational fashion and is today London's largest comprehensive school.

Crown Woods grew spectacularly fast, from the first 500 first and second-year children who stepped into the unfinished building in 1958. By the mid-1960s it had become a school of around 2,000 pupils with a very large sixth form, a staff of over 100 and the buzz of self-confidence to be found only in a thriving institution regularly shown off to visiting foreign dignitaries. Ross saw that his role as head must differ from that of the great headmasters of public schools — Arnold of Rugby, Roxburgh of Stowe — remembered for their personal influence on pupils. His aim was to know his staff, rather than the children; to appoint the best possible teachers, encourage them, and enable them to develop their own best talents within the school. That 15 teachers at Crown Woods in his time later became heads of other schools indicates the success of this policy. He is remembered as an inspirational leader with an influence far beyond his own school.

He was innovative in managerial techniques, communication with parents and the outside world, and eclectic in what he imported into Crown Woods from other types of school. Three initiatives stand out. Inverliever, a derelict house with beautiful grounds in Argyllshire, was bought by the school after long hours of fund-raising and converted into a centre for study visits and holidays for Greenwich schoolchildren. Again, a col-



laborative scheme was developed with a teacher training college, Culham, to improve the balance between classroom practice for intending teachers and the study of professional theory. The one major development which has been destroyed following the break-up of the ILEA, was the boarding lodge, catering largely for children of service personnel.

Ross was educated at Grangefield Grammar School, Stockton-on-Tees and read English at Keble College Oxford. Graduating in 1931 after a year's time out in America he spent a year teaching at Gordonstoun, two years at Haverfordwest Grammar School, four years at Bromley Grammar School and volunteered for service with the RAF in 1940.

In 1945 he became Warden of Sawston Village College and remained there until his appointment to Crown Woods in 1957. The Cambridgeshire Village College combined the role of local secondary school with unusually generous adult education facilities. These years at Sawston, which was uncommon in providing both for "grammar" and "secondary modern" pupils, were seminal for Ross's idea of a school's importance to the local community and his advocacy of comprehensive secondary education.

He brought to both professional and private life the values of a liberal humanist together with a sharp and subtle intelligence, and an abhorrence of pomposity. He was a voracious reader, a gifted gardener, a man of notable charm — a charm which reflected great generosity and warmth.

He is survived by two daughters. His wife Ella, whom he married in 1937, died in 1983. During the ten years following her death he was fortunate to find friendship, affection and unstinting care with Dame Mary Green, founding head of the nearby Kidbrooke School and a former professional ally.

Bruno Rossi

BRUNO ROSSI, Italian-born American physicist who has died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, aged 88, was an authority on cosmic rays who was regarded as the "grandfather of high energy astrophysics".

In 1929 at Europe's oldest university, Bologna, he invented the Rossi coincidence circuit, capable of recording the simultaneous occurrence of three or more electrical pulses. Rossi's subsequent research demonstrated the enormous energy of the cosmic bombardment from space and laid the foundation for high-energy particle physics.

Leaving Italy in 1938 because of pressure fom the Mussolini regime, he joined the faculty of Cornell University in 1940, and then found himself working on the atomic bomb project at Los Alamos. After the war he spent 25 years as a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is survived by his wife, Nora, two daughters and a son.

Federica Montseny

FEDERICA MONTSENY, Spain's first woman Cabinet minister who created a sensation in the country when she framed, and had enacted, a law granting abortion to women, died in Toulouse on January 14 aged 88.

Born in Madrid on February 12, 1905, to Catalan parents, who were writers of markedly anarchistic leanings, she was early imbued with their ideals and from the age of 17 onwards was a prolific contributor to trade union journals of the period.

When King Alfonso XIII left the country in April 1931 and a provisional republic was proclaimed, Federica Montseny's name came very much to the attention of the socialist and republican parties which formed the governing coalition and in 1936 she became Minister of Health in the administration of the Prime Minister Largo Caballero. She soon added to her fame as the first Spanish woman ever to hold a Cabinet portfolio when, in 1937, with the Spanish Civil War already raging, she put through parliament a law granting abortion to women on demand.

When the war went against the Republicans she fled across the Pyrenees with her three children and from 1939 she lived as an exile in Toulouse. Her abortion law did not long survive the accession to power of Franco who had it rescinded as one of his first acts.

Though able to return to Spain in the post-Franco years Federica Montseny remained in France like many of her distinguished women contemporaries of the Republican period, and continued to write on trade union matters and women's rights, as well as producing several volumes of memoirs.

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IGNORANCE AND VENEREAL DISEASE

KNOWLEDGE THE KEYNOTE OF PREVENTION

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG-JONES, Lecturer on Psychological Medicine to St. Bartholomew's Hospital and Consulting Physician in Mental Diseases to the London Military Command, gave a lecture on venereal diseases at Gresham College, Basinghall-street, last night.

He said that people were ill most often through lack of knowledge, and ignorance was very wide-spread, especially among young people, and more particularly in matters concerning sex relations. The keynote for prevention of disease was knowledge, and it should replace ignorance. One could not blame young people who were allowed to be ignorant of the laws of health and of the risks they ran if they went wrong. Children were rarely taught in their own homes the risks they ran by giving way to desires and passions, and at school these aspects of social life were hardly ever touched upon. It could not be surprising, therefore, when they went out in the world that they did not apprehend the penalties to be experienced by indulgences of various kinds, penalties which did not end with one generation, but which involved the future to an incalculable extent. The Press had drawn a considerable amount of public attention to this aspect during the last four years, and notably during the last few weeks it had been emphasized in *The Times* that insufficient attention was being paid to the prevention of the disease.

It had been definitely ascertained that there were probably at one time or another 2 per cent of the Army, or over 100,000 men—some said a quarter of a million—infected with venereal disease, and in the civil population at least 2 per cent of the population were infected. Eight hundred thousand infants were born yearly in England and Wales. Out of this number 100,000 died before the end of the first year, and of these a very large number died from inherited venereal disease. He emphasized the need of early treatment. It was keenly hoped that the new Education Act, which carried on compulsory training from the age of seven years to the age of 16, might greatly facilitate the understanding of these dangers, and that no girl or boy would leave school without receiving some warning of the great risks arising from sexual immorality.

ON THIS DAY

January 17 1919

Sir Robert Armstrong-Jones (1857-1943), speaking of the widespread ignorance of venereal disease, said that, at one time or another, at least 2 per cent of the civil population were infected.

THE TIMES TODAY MONDAY JANUARY 17 1994

NEWS

Assad ready for peace

■ President Assad of Syria offered Israel yesterday the one word it has been waiting for in the search for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Mr Assad signalled for the first time his readiness to establish "normal" relations with the Jewish state — a country with which he is technically at war **Pages 1, 10, 15**

Major's fate in question

■ Relations between Downing Street and the press sank to a new low yesterday as a war of words raged between John Major's government and Conservative newspapers. At the same time, John Smith said ministers' refusal to take the blame for Britain's difficulties and its readiness to break election pledges were the reasons for the nation's cynicism about politicians **Pages 1, 2, 14, 15, 34**

Scott ordeal

John Major faces a fresh ordeal when he appears before Lord Justice Scott's enquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair..... **Pages 1, 15**

Worshipper ejected

A divorced man was asked to leave a service to protect his former wife's feelings **Page 1**

Gaidar resigns

Yegor Gaidar, who spearheaded President Yeltsin's reforms, said he was resigning from the government **Pages 1, 8, 15**

Fashionable past

Christian Lacroix showed a summer collection so steeped in history that it was almost possible to believe some designs were genuine period articles **Pages 3, 13**

Stowaways die

A Romanian stowaway anxious to start a new life in the West told police how he watched his four friends die inside a ship's sealed cargo container **Page 3**

Harding at risk

Figure-skating champion Tonya Harding may lose her place in the American Olympic team as a result of the January 6 attack on Nancy Kerrigan **Pages 11, 22**

Mexican amnesty

President Salinas of Mexico said he will propose a general amnesty to all sides in the peasants' revolt in the southern state of Chiapas..... **Page 11**

The baby lottery

Joanne Glasbey explains how the agony of infertility drives childless couples to take a gamble on IVF treatment..... **Pages 7, 15**

SS massacre

Files on the investigation into a SS general accused of killing more than 80 British PoWs are to be released..... **Page 5**

Pawnbrokers rule

Members of the National Association of Pawnbrokers report business up by a fifth over last year **Page 5**

Memorial visits

President Clinton visited Kuropaty, where Stalin butchered up to 200,000 opponents, and a Soviet-built monument to Nazism's victims **Pages 8, 15**

Defective Bills

Most legislation is cobbled together at the last minute, is badly drafted, is unintelligible to all but specialists and then proves technically defective..... **Page 4**

PAC peace move

The Pan Africanist Congress is suspending its guerrilla campaign in South Africa conditionally and will contest the all-race general election **Page 10**

Monogamy in favour

Most people favour monogamy and almost 80 per cent regard extramarital sex as wrong, according to a survey... **Pages 4, 14**

Road safety week — and 1,000 die

■ India has ended its annual road safety week, during which more than 1,000 people died on what are possibly the world's most dangerous roads. The carnage is worsening month by month and is accompanied by a huge growth in traffic. The annual death toll is 60,000, equivalent to a fatality every nine minutes..... **Page 10**



Thousands marching in Paris yesterday in protest against plans for local tax money to go to private schools. Report, page 10

SPORT

Football: A second-half goal by Peter Beardsley gave Newcastle United a 2-1 victory over QPR at Loftus Road and moved them into third place in the FA Carling Premiership..... **Page 25**

Cricket: Wasim Akram has stood down as Pakistan captain after a revolt by ten players who refused to play under him on a forthcoming tour of Bangladesh and New Zealand. He has been replaced by Salim Malik **Page 19**

Tennis: Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf are favourites to win their respective singles events at the Australian Open..... **Page 20**

Television wars: Granada has told the Office of Fair Trading that it would sell off its television advertising sales business to silence any objections the competition regulator may have to its £683 million bid for LWT..... **Page 36**

Beaten out: Metallgesellschaft, Germany's fourteenth-largest industrial group, was rescued from certain bankruptcy this weekend by international banks..... **Page 36**

Job lottery: The founder of the Irish national lottery is one of two new candidates set to join those competing to run the £4 billion-a-year National Lottery..... **Page 36**

Time wasting: "It was that great political thinker Screaming Lord Sutch who first framed the question 'Why is there only one Monopolies Commission?'." Libby Purves asks why the institutions of state are bothering with video games and radio soaps **Page 12**

Style icons: Iain R. Webb on Burberrys **Page 13**

Intensive tuition: The Reading Recovery scheme was hailed as the answer to slow readers, but evidence suggests the programme might not be a panacea..... **Page 27**

Teller of tales: This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Robert Louis Stevenson, who is now being seen as a pioneer of early modernism..... **Page 29**

Nasty not nice: Lynne Truss appreciates the latest cop show to cross the Atlantic, *NYPD Blue*, which makes for surprising and exciting television..... **Page 29**

Gangland revisited: The London International Mime Festival has kicked off with *Clair de Luz*, a production that looks as if Pinter and Le Carré had collaborated on a piece of Grand Guignol in the middle of a power cut **Page 30**

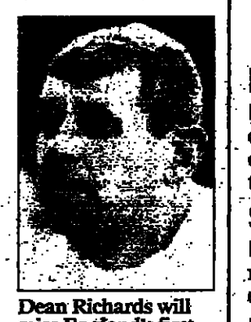
PEOPLE IN THE TIMES



The Duchess of Kent attended her first public Mass as a Roman Catholic yesterday as the guest of Lord Camoys at Stonor Park in Oxfordshire **Page 3**



H. E. Bates, whose book on German air strikes against Britain was rejected by the Air Ministry but is to be published in June, 50 years on **Page 5**



Dean Richards will miss England's first two matches in the five nations' rugby union championship after sustaining an elbow injury **Page 21**

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Hidden treasures

■ When news got out that hundreds of pencil drawings by Modigliani had been saved from the dustbin, the art world went crazy. But does the show at the Royal Academy live up to the advance hype?

Silence in the night

■ A law to silence Britain's most unpopular noise, the nocturnal wailing of the rogue car alarm, came into effect this month. How will it work?

Ripe for dramatisation

■ "There's not one ounce of fat on it." Director Mike Alfreds on Evelyn Waugh's *A Handful of Dust*, now adapted for the stage.

TELEVISION

Penelope Keith plays a domineering barrister who is more than a match for her male adversaries in the new situation comedy *Law and Disorder* (ITV, 8pm)..... **Page 35**

OPINION

A note of promise

For Nato to meet the challenge of "the unfreezing of history" in Europe, Mr Clinton will need to reinforce his proclaimed Atlanticism once he has returned to Washington..... **Page 15**

Home truths

To prohibit Tory MPs from buying local authority houses would be no less absurd than to prevent them sending their children to opted-out schools **Page 15**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Do intelligent Cabinet ministers, men of real quality like Douglas Hurd or Kenneth Clarke, fail to see what fools — what parodies of themselves — they appear? The country is yearning for leadership. The Labour Opposition is more feebly led than at any time since George Lansbury retired in 1935. Yet all leadership is moral leadership..... **Page 14**

PETER RIDDELL

John Major did confide a state secret to me at the celebrated Downing Street dinner on Thursday. It was not his opinion of his Cabinet colleagues, or even the date of the next election. He explained the far more perplexing matter of how to tell the difference between the Bedser twins, Alec and Eric **Page 14**

OBITUARIES

Frank McEwen, founding Director of National Gallery of Rhodesia; Harry Nilsson, pop singer-songwriter; Malcolm Ross, headmaster..... **Page 17**

LETTERS

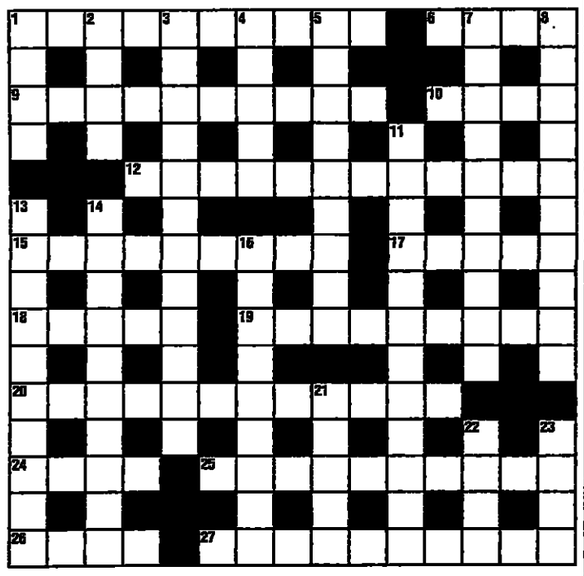
Advice for MPs on whether to lower the age of consent for male homosexuals..... **Page 15**

LEADERS

Russia is attempting a reformation under the most trying conditions. The United States must do what it can now and remain alert to respond if and as Russian reform takes deeper hold

—The Washington Post

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,441



ACROSS

1 One of a pair Cinderella found relatively ugly (10).
6 Egghead said in Paris to supervise a journal (4).
9 Mingling of certain players heard in rock? (10).
10 Shere Khan's territory in the latter half of Disney's film (4).
12 Dog given command in one Belloc novel (6,6).
15 Mum carries in weapon — a sign of distress (6-3).
17 Gradually approaching a heath? (5).
18 Article written by man about extraterrestrial visitor (5).
19 Food originally fried to feed some working with wood (9).
20 Awkward position of nuns sheltering oddly naive characters (12).
24 Mini-tempest producing a bit of news (4).
25 Unusual novice with a by-line in — but not very often (10).
26 Nevertheless it lost its tail, allegedly, in the Himalayas (4).
27 Extremely restrained, this love may be ephemeral (5-5).

DOWN

1 Little house thus supported in London (4).
2 Bring in a vase, say (4).
3 Terrible scene out East — but not in India for instance (12).
4 Duration of a photographer's exposure to a drug? (5).
5 Stamina can possibly continue to exist without it (9).
7 Refusal to acknowledge record with comparatively weak sound (10).
8 Manufacturers' symbols for many a vessel hemmed in by winds (10).
11 Dispensable, unlike oil in the plant! (3-9).
13 Continental friend with talent and good humour (10).
14 Imprudent but undivided, by the sound of it (10).
16 Grand language for writing notes in? Nonsense (9).
21 It's better than a magpie for the sort of man we feed! (5).
22 Indo-European bondsman with no English (4).
23 How this composer travelled from London to Essex? (4).

Times Two Crossword, page 36

KNOCKANDO PURE SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,440 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky and a stationery rack

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc's,Avon,Somrs	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.58 am — Sun sets: 4.24pm

Moon sets 11.05 pm — Moon rises 9.48 am

First quarter January 19

London 4.24 pm to 7.58 am
Bristol 4.34 pm to 8.08 am
Edinburgh 4.15 pm to 8.32 am
Manchester 4.23 pm to 8.15 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 8.14 am

Tourist rates are on page 33

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a frosty start. Isolated showers may affect E parts but otherwise it will be a dry day. NW Scotland and northern isles can expect rain and hill snow. Northern Ireland and the rest of Scotland should stay dry. It will be windy in E at first and in NW all day.

☐ **London, Midlands, Wales, Channel Iss, SW, cent S, cent N, and NW England:** Dry, fairly sunny, frost early and late. Wind N, moderate. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **SE and E England, East Anglia:** Sunny spells, wintry showers. Wind N, moderate to fresh. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Lakes, IoM, S Scotland, Edinburgh and Dundee:** Hazy sunshine. Wind N, moderate. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **NE England:** Isolated wintry showers, fairly bright. Wind N to NE, fresh, then moderate. Max 4C (39F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Glasgow, Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Northern Ireland:** Mainly dry, cloudy later. Wind SW, moderate to fresh. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **NE and NW Scotland, Northern Isles:** Sleety rain with hill snow. Wind SW, strong. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** Sleety rain spreading S followed by sunshine and showers.

AROUND BRITAIN

MIDDAY. t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain; h=hail; du=dull; g=gale; sh=shower; b=bright

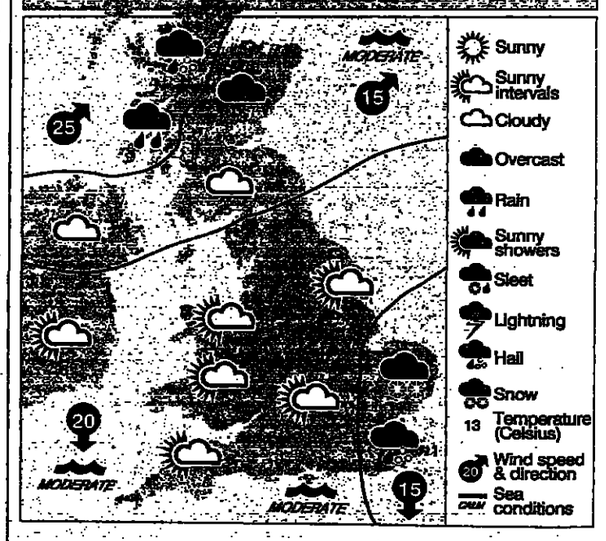
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	X					London	-	0.06	9	48	c
Anglesey	-	0.08	8	43	c	Lowestoft	-	-	7	45	d
Aspatria	1.8	-	3	37	fg	Manchester	-	-	8	43	c
Aviemore	0.1	0.02	2	36	sn	Margate	X	-	7	45	c
Belfast	0.1	0.01	5	41	fg	Minehead	X	0.22	7	45	r
Birmingham	-	0.01	6	43	r	Morecambe	-	-	5	41	du
Bognor R	-	0.22	8	46	r	Newcastle	4.1	0.02	5	41	sh
Bournem'th	-	0.18	8	46	r	Newquay	X				
Bristol	-	0.21	7	45	r	Norwich	-	0.01	6	43	c
Buxton	-	-	4	39	c	Nottingham	-	-	5	41	c
Cardiff	-	0.55	6	43	r	Penzance	3.7	0.09	10	50	sh
Clacton	0.1	-	7	45	c	Plymouth	3.6	0.14	10	50	sh
Cleethorpes	X					Poole	-	0.14	8	46	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.02	6	41	c	Ross-o-wye	-	0.24	6	43	r
Cromer	0.1	-	6	43	c	Ryde	X				
Dunbar	X					Salcombe	X				
Eastbourne	-	0.05	8	46	r	Sandown	-	0.10	8	46	r
Edinburgh	0.5	-	3	37	c	Saunton Snd	-	0.28	9	48	r
Eskdalemuir	X					Scarboro'	2.7	-	5	41	b
Exmouth	X					Scilly Isles	3.1	0.09	9	48	b
Falmouth	1.8	0.07	9	48	b	Shanklin	-	0.13	8	46	r
Folkestone	-	-	7	45	c	Skegness	-	-	5	41	c
Glasgow	-	-	0	32	fg	Southend	X	-	-		
Guernsey	2.7	0.19	10	50	b	Southport	-	-	6	43	b
Hastings	-	0.02	7	45	r	Southsea	-	0.08	8	46	r
Herne Bay	-	-	7	45	du	Stornoway	1.2	0.15	5	41	sh
Hove	-	0.12	8	46	r	Swanage	0.2	0.12	9	48	sh
Hunstanton	0.2	-	6	43	c	Teignmouth	0.5	0.54	8	46	sh
Isle of Man	-	-	6	43	b	Tenby	9	-	0.37	8	46
Jersey	3.5	0.09	9	48	sh	Tiree	-	4.3	6	43	sh
Kinloss	0.2	0.01	4	39	c	Torquay	2.3	0.22	10	50	b
Leeds	0.1	0.03	5	41	c	Tynemouth	4.3	0.06	5	41	sh
Lerwick	1.8	0.04	3	37	sn	Ventnor	-	0.16	8	46	r
Leuchars	3.1	-	5	41	b	West-s-mare	-	-	X	7	45
Littlehmptn	-	0.11	8	46	r	Weymouth	0.9	0.20	9	48	r
Liverpool	-	-	5	41	b	Wick	X				

Ajaccio	10	50	c	C'phagn	-1	30	sn	Madrid	6	43	s
Alcrotri	17	63	c	Corfu	12	54	f	Majorca	14	57	s
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Dublin	3	37	s	Malaga	12	54	f
Algiers	15	61	f	Dubrovnik	9	48	r	Malta	16	61	f
Amst'dm	4	39	c	Faro	13	55	c	Melb'rne	19	66	r
Athens	16	61	s	Florence	-6	43	r	Mexico C	17	63	s
Bahrain	22	72	s	Frankfurt	4	39	r	Miami	21	70	s
Bangkok	32	90	f	Funchal	16	61	f	Milan	8	46	f
Barbados	28	82	f	Geneva	3	37	c	Montreal	-27	-17	s
Barcelona	12	54	s	Gibraltar	13	55	s	Moscow	-1	30	c
Beirut	18	61	s	Helsinki	0	32	d	Munich	-1	30	c
Belgrade	6	43	s	Hong K	22	72	f	Nairobi	28	82	f
Berlin	3	37	sl	Innsbruck	2	36	f	Naples	10	50	r
Bermuda	21	70	c	Inverness	2	36	c	N Delhi	15	59	s
Biarritz	6	43	r	Istanbul	9	48	f	N York	-10	14	f
Blackpool	4	39	s	Jeddah	24	75	s	Nice	11	52	s
Borde'x	9	48	f	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Oslo	-6	21	s
Brussels	5	41	s	Karachi	25	77	s	Paris	4	39	r
Budapst	0	32	fg	L Palmas	18	64	c	Peking	6	41	s
B Aires	17	63	r	La Toquet	5	41	f	Perth	24	75	s
Cairo	17	63	f	Lisbon	9	48	r	Prague	1	34	f
Cape Tn	26	79	s	Locarno	5	41	c	Reykjavik	-6	21	f
Chicago	-22	-8	s	L Angels	18	64	s	Rhodes	17	63	f
Ch'church	16	61	f	Luxembg	5	41	f	Rio de J	27	81	f
Cologne	5	41	r	Luxor	19	66	s	Riyadh	18	64	s

Rome	11	52	c	Stockholm	-5	23	f	Vienna	4	39	c
Ronaldsway	-5	41	s	Strasb'rg	2	36	c	Warsaw	4	39	c
Salzburg	-1	30	c	Sydney	25	77	c	Wash'ton	-10	14	f
S F'isco	11	52	s	Tangier	13	55	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	s
Santiago	27	81	s	Tel Aviv	14	57	r	Zurich	1	34	c
S Paulo	25	77	f	Tenerife	19	66	f				
Seoul	-5	23	c	Tokyo	9	48	s				
Sing'por	31	88	f	Toronto	-24	-11	f				

X = not available

WEATHER TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: Low D will gradually disappear. Low P will sweep NE and deepen. High C will edge east with little pressure change.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.55	5.89	5.23	6.81	Liverpool	2.12	8.58	2.29	8.79
Aberdeen	4.39	3.87	4.38	3.05	Lowestoft	12.13	2.62	1.11	2.52
Avonmouth	10.22	12.19	10.34	11.72	Margate	2.56	4.51	3.30	4.35
Belfast	2.11	3.18	2.24	3.44	Milford Haven	9.26	6.48	9.41	6.11
Cardiff	10.07	11.21	10.18	10.88	Newquay	8.20	6.50	8.35	6.20
Devonport	8.44	5.20	9.04	4.50	Oban	8.48	3.80	8.48	3.50
Dover	1.59	6.46	2.19	6.03	Penzance	7.50	5.30	8.11	4.90
Falmouth	8.14	5.00	8.34	4.70	Portland	9.37	1.90	9.53	1.60
Glasgow	4.02	4.70	4.11	5.10	Portsmouth	2.24	4.60	2.39	4.40
Harwich	2.45	3.85	3.12	3.71	Shoreham	2.26	6.01	2.35	5.74
Holyhead	1.22	4.99	1.34	5.24	Southampton	2.02	4.23	2.07	4.09
Hull	8.32	6.73	9.36	7.24	Swansea	9.27	8.70	9.43	8.24
Ilfracombe	8.04	8.54	8.18	8.15	Tees	7.01	4.83	7.05	5.05
King's Lynn	9.39	5.30	9.39	6.20	Wilton-on-Nze	2.38	4.09	3.06	3.92
Leith	5.55	5.04	6.09	5.13					

Saturday: Highest day temp: St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, and Penzance, Cornwall, 10C (50F); lowest day max: Glasgow, 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Cardiff, 0.61in; highest sunshine: Tynemouth, Tyne and Wear, and Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 4.3hr.

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ARTS 29-30

Robert Louis Stevenson's wild streak



BOOKS 31

Norma Major sings the praises of Joan Sutherland



GRAHAM SEARJEANT 34

Why economics and ethics go together

EDUCATION ON MONDAY Page 27

THE TIMES

MONDAY JANUARY 17 1994

Leicester No 8 to miss two five nations' championship matches

England weakened by Richards injury

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

DEAN Richards, the Leicester No 8 who is not only the England pack leader but also the side's talisman, will miss the next two weekends of the five nations' championship. Richards, 30, dislocated his right elbow during his club's league match at Orrell on Saturday and has been ruled out for the next six weeks.

He will be missing, therefore, when England begin their championship against Scotland at Murrayfield on February 5 and for the second match, against Ireland at Twickenham, a fortnight later. Richards, who has been capped 35 times, will also miss Leicester's defence of the Pilkington Cup against London Irish in the fifth-round tie this weekend.

The England management took as positive a view as possible when a truncated squad trained at Twickenham yesterday. "It's a good test of our strength in depth and maybe we can turn it to our advantage if we go into Scotland without the same cosy gang that beat New Zealand," Geoff Cooke, the team manager, said.

"It's a blow to lose Dean, who is a player of experience, who everyone respects and the opposition fear. But we have played without him before and been successful. We would rather have him with us but whoever comes in will know what is going on."

Having constructed a new back row, composed entirely of No 8s, for the 15-9 victory over the All Blacks, England have a number of options: either Tim Rodber, whose hamstring injury is improving rapidly, or Ben Clarke could move to No 8, with the vacancy going to John Hall, the experienced Bath blind-side flanker, or Neil Back, the uncapped Leicester open-side, both of whom trained yesterday.

The selectors will keep in mind the encounter in Paris on March 5 with France, who opened their championship defence in such emphatic fashion by beating Ireland 35-15. The French, too, favour a muscular back row and England might not choose to expose the shorter man, Back, against them, though Cooke will wait for medical advice later this week to see whether there is any prospect of Richards being fit by then.

"His injury seems to have come from an innocuous situation," Cooke said. "The elbow went straight back in and it must be encouraging that there was no surgery required, but it's a serious, and very painful, injury." Richards missed three of the 1987 championship matches and the entire 1989-90 season with shoulder injuries. England have chosen to do without his physical presence, notably in the knockout stages of the 1991 World Cup and in last season's championship.

The team to defend the Calcutta Cup will not be confirmed until January 30, the day after both Nigel Redman and Kyran Bracken hope to have played their first game for two months. Bracken, the Bristol scrum half who played so well against New Zealand, is optimistic that his ankle will have mended by then but Redman, the Bath lock, is disappointed that his elbow operations will not permit him to play this weekend, against Bristol.

The season is over for Iain Morrison, the London Scottish flanker who suffered a double fracture of the leg during Scotland's 29-6 defeat by Wales on Saturday, having spent the first half of the season recovering from a cartilage operation. Andy Nicol, the Scotland scrum half, must rest bruised ribs but his partner, Craig Chalmers, who went off with blurred vision, will be fit by this weekend.

Five Rugby World Cup (RWC) Ltd directors met Louis Luyt, of the South African Rugby Football Union, the chairman of the local tournament organising committee, in Paris at the weekend.

Luyt had proposed a contraction of venues for the tournament in South Africa next year, on grounds of security and finance. Last week it emerged that Nic Labuschagne, the South African director on the RWC board, was not consulted by Luyt's organising committee but yesterday a protocol was agreed between the two parties which, as well as saving face on both sides, should lead to a more constructive relationship.

"Many misunderstandings and misconceptions were dealt with," Luyt, whose company runs Ellis Park, the stadium in Johannesburg which will host three pool games and the final, said. "After the full and frank discussion that took place I express my full confidence in the RWC board." Luyt stressed the need for the tournament to "reflect the realities of the new South Africa". It may yet prove that the original 14 venues will be reduced, though not to the six suggested by Luyt. Steve Tshwete, the African National Congress spokesman on sport, has said that he would oppose a significant decrease in the number of venues.

Resurgent Wales, page 21

MARC ASPLAND



Clarke, left, and Back, third from left, are on the fringe of the action as the England squad train at Twickenham yesterday in preparation for the five nations' championship match against Scotland

Norman may face enquiry

BY JOHN GOODBODY

ANDY Norman, the promotions officer of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) was said yesterday to be "totally shocked" at the suicide of Cliff Temple, a journalist and coach, whom he had accused of sexually harassing female competitors.

Norman may be unable to survive this controversy, as friends and colleagues, who attend Temple's funeral today, have pressed for another enquiry into the circumstances leading up to the death of the man who had been athletics correspondent of *The Sunday Times* since 1969. The British Athletics Writers' Association yesterday called for an independent judicial enquiry, saying that if the allegations were found to be true, Norman should play no further part in the sport.

Norman, regarded as the most powerful man in British athletics, was unavailable for comment yesterday, but Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman who saw him over the weekend, said: "He looked totally shocked. Beneath his bluff exterior, he is a sentimental man."

Ward said that the BAF would wait until after Temple's funeral and the inquest had been concluded, before deciding whether to take any action.

Temple, who was found dead on a railway line near Folkestone, Kent, nine days ago, had suffered a mental breakdown in 1993, because his marriage had broken up and he had financial worries. However, Temple, who was also an outstanding coach to runners like Shireen Bailey, an Olympic finalist, and Mike Gratton, the 1983 London Marathon winner, had been threatened by Norman.

Last July, Temple was investigating a story, to be published in *The Sunday Times*, that Norman had favourably treated competitors, who joined Chafford Hundred AC, run by Norman's fiancee, Fatima Whitbread, the 1987 world javelin champion.

The Sunday Times yesterday published extracts from a tape recording of the conversation in which Norman intimated that if the newspaper published the article, which was harmful to Miss Whitbread, then an allegation might be spread that Temple had sexually molested Shireen Bailey. The article was published on August 1, and *The Sunday Times* complained about Norman's conduct to the BAF.

There are allegations that, during August and early September, Norman repeated these insinuations about Temple to people in athletics. Ward said yesterday: "The BAF acknowledged the letter from *The Sunday Times*, and had talked to Norman, who gave an undertaking not to repeat these intimations."

In one of the five letters left by Temple after his death, he refers to the rumours about him, and denied them. Shireen Bailey has also said that there was no truth in them.

Moment of truth moves nearer for Venables

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE hour of appointment, or disappointment, is closing on Terry Venables. The Football Association made it plain yesterday that it hopes to make him England manager in succession to Graham Taylor in time for Venables to attend the draw for the 1996 European championships, to be held in Manchester next Saturday.

However, as always with announcements made by the FA, this one comes without real certainty, without convincing evidence that Sir Bert Millichip, the 79-year-old chairman, and his four-man advisory committee, have yet resolved all the tangled innuendos and allegations about the business life of the former Tottenham Hotspur manager and chief executive.

"It will be a marvellous publicity stunt if Terry Venables could be there [in Manchester this weekend], and I will be terribly disappointed if that were not to be so," said Millichip, a former solicitor, last night. He added that his committee had a duty to ensure that there would be no question of impropriety in Venables's past embroiling the good name of the FA in court proceedings; but Millichip then said there remained one or two small factors to be resolved before an appointment could be made.

This being so, small factors being far easier to remove than the serious implications that were levied against Venables in television programmes last autumn, it is to be concluded that, as Venables himself suggested on BBC's *Grandstand* on Saturday, the hold-up would now be deliberations over the contract. And yet, Millichip was reported to have said in Berne last Thursday: "We have a shortlist of names, but I can assure you that, as of today, we have not decided on the one important name." Moreover, he added: "I think there are many who would like to see Venables as England's manager, but he has this funny reputation."

Clearly, or not so clearly, there is confusion still in the FA's minds. The advice which Jimmy Armfield canvassed from professional clubs pointed to Venables as the most able coach in the business, the one whose work abroad qualified him to redirect the previously myopic English concentration on simplistic football. Yet why, with such serious work to be done and such potentially devastating repercussions if all the skeletons allegedly in Venables's cupboard are not proven false, is the FA in such a hurry?

Producing its new manager for the benefit of a European draw is meaningless. It cannot think, surely, that the rest of the world will be impressed, will look up to England, simply because its members took their fingers out of the dyke, and made the appointment.

A change in the situation, possibly the news that Millichip was awaiting, came in the reported comments of Detective Inspector Raymond Needham last weekend that the Serious Fraud Squad, called in in the first instance by Venables, was satisfied that he was not culpable of an allegedly fraudulent £1 million lease back deal by his former company Landhurst. Also, a winding-up order against Scribes West, the Knightsbridge club and restaurant run by Venables, was due to be heard in the High Court today. That, too, has apparently been settled out of court.

Logically, the FA will now wait until an investigation into the dealings of Tottenham has at least heard evidence scheduled to be put before it tomorrow before taking the plunge. Much of the acrimony, the accusations and sour mud-slinging at Venables has emanated from the soap opera blow-up at Spurs between him and Sugar, who sacked him last summer.



Keegan: first choice

Finally, if there is any conclusion to the strife of Venables, the Inland Revenue investigation into payments to players at Tottenham, and a Department of Trade and Industry investigation at Edennote, Venables's private company, it is unlikely to be reached for some months. So is the FA now ready to gamble, a word I put to senior executives there some weeks ago? The suggestion from Millichip yesterday is that the gamble has already been taken. He said that when the "one or two matters" have been looked into, "if I am satisfied, I am fairly certain the rest of the committee will be too."

And if not? Intriguingly, the match at Loftus Road yesterday between Queens Park Rangers and Newcastle United involved two of the younger managers in the FA Carling Premiership, Gerry Francis and Kevin Keegan, whom many would like to see involved in the England succession.

Neither would be drawn on the question yesterday, but, after a pleasing match, emphasising the technique which England must surely now see as a priority, we were left to reflect on the fact that Francis would be available when his contract at Rangers ends in May, and that Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, has offered the services of Keegan in a caretaker capacity if that option was desirable.

There is no question of desire, Keegan would be first choice were he available. And if there is yet one more sting in the tail for Venables, it could be that Keegan looks after the team on a part-time basis for the next two international matches and Francis takes up the appointment in the summer.

Results and tables, page 24
Weekend matches, pages 24 and 25

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THE LOAN CORPORATION

Newcombe critical of top players for lack of personality

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

PETE Sampras, the winner of the last two grand slam championships, imagined that the stiffest opposition would be facing him here on the other side of the net at Flinders Park. Instead, before the Australian Open had even started today, the top seed and favourite found himself subjected to a ferocious verbal attack.

His assailant was John Newcombe. The Wimbledon champion in 1970 and 1971, writing in the *Australian Tennis Magazine*, accused leading players in general and Sampras in particular, as well as Jim Courier, of portraying too dour and unappealing a picture on court.

"It is a non-fulfilment of duty and a selfish act simply to play matches, take the money and have a to-hell-with-everyone-else attitude," Newcombe wrote. "If it was me up there today, I would be ashamed as I would be letting down all the great champions who have created the history of tennis.

"The players whose true natures are not coming across are the top two, Pete Sampras and Jim Courier. They are classy young men. If they could become a little less tense on court, it would allow them to realise the public are people and they, the players, are actors playing out a real-life drama."

Sampras's response was as crisp as any of his beautiful backhands down the line. "My job is to do anything I can to win," he retorted. "Winning matches is more important than my image. You won't see me cracking jokes just because John Newcombe wants me to."

The sharp exchange is relevant. The Australian Open, traditionally the weakest of the four grand slam events anyway, threatens to be particularly colourless this year.

The women's tournament, missing three of the top nine — Martina Navratilova, Jennifer Capriati and, most significantly, Monica Seles — is already being interpreted as an exercise in inevitability.

As long as Steffi Graf can walk on court, she is considered virtually certain to collect her fourth successive grand slam title, a feat she achieved in 1988. But predictions can go awry here, if not as spectacularly as yesterday's weather forecast.

It was supposed to be 35 degrees of insufferable heat. The prophecy was precisely half right. In a temperature akin to a pleasant English spring day, qualifiers had to wait until late afternoon before the rain ceased long enough and the wind blew hard enough for them to compete on a dry surface.

Graf will probably have to eliminate Mary Joe Fernandez, the sixth seed, and then Conchita Martinez, the third seed, on her way to the final. There she could meet Jana Novotna, the fifth seed who was on the verge of ridiculing similar conjecture about the destiny of the Wimbledon title six months ago.

Sampras's progress to his third successive grand slam championship has also been eased. The withdrawals include five of the top 15. Sergi Bruguera, Andrei Medvedev and Richard Krajicek are injured. Boris Becker is awaiting the birth of his first child and Michael Chang has no excuse other than feeling that he could use his time more productively elsewhere.

That still leaves a refreshed Courier, the holder for the last two years, whom Sampras should meet in the semi-final. In the other half of the draw lie Michael Stich, the strongest player towards the end of last year, Stefan Edberg, the beaten finalist in 1992 and 1993, and Petr Korda, the winner of the Grand Slam Cup.

Sampras opens against a 20-year-old from Toowoomba ranked 225th who has never qualified for a grand slam event. His name is Joshua Eagle and he does not expect any humorous distractions.

Kimito Date, of Japan, beat Mary Joe Fernandez, of the United States, yesterday to win the New South Wales Open, her third title.

SEEDINGS

MEN: 1, P Sampras (US), 2, M Stich (Ger); 3, J Courier (US), 4, S Edberg (Swe); 5, G Ivanisevic (Cro); 6, T Muster (Austria), 7, C Pioline (Fr); 8, P Korda (Cz); 9, T Martin (US); 10, M Gustafsson (Swe); 11, M Rosset (Switz); 12, A Volkov (Russ), 13, W Ferreira (SA); 14, K Novacek (Cz); 15, I Lendl (US); 16, A Boetsch (Fr).
WOMEN: 1, S Graf (Ger), 2, A Sánchez Vicario (Sp), 3, C Martínez (Sp); 4, G Sabatini (Arg), 5, J Novotna (Cz); 6, M J Fernandez (US), 7, A Huber (Ger), 8, M Maleeva-Fragnière (Switz), 9, M Pierce (Fr); 10, K Date (Japan), 11, Z Garrison-Jackson (US); 12, A Coetzer (SA), 13, H Sukova (Cz); 14, M Maleeva (Bul), 15, N Tauziat (Fr); 16, L Davenport (US).

Sampras warns rivals

PETE Sampras has warned his Australian Open rivals that he fears nobody as he heads towards Melbourne for the first grand slam tournament of the year. After beating Ivan Lendl in the final of the New South Wales Open on Saturday, the 22-year-old world No 1 also revealed his desire to be regarded as one of the best players of all-time.

"No, I'm not frightened of anyone. I feel that if I play *my* tennis, I can win," Sampras said. "I think I'm the favourite and I'm going to Melbourne with confidence." Tim Gullikson, his coach, said that he could become one of the greatest players the game has ever seen. Sampras replied: "I've thought about it, particularly winning on clay at Roland Garros. Winning on every surface, that would prove to me I'm one of the greatest of all-time. I'm only 22. As I mature I think I'll get better and better. Hopefully this will be another good year for me, like 1993 was." Lendl has poured scorn on criticism from John Newcombe that Sampras lacks personality.



STEFANO RELLANDINI/AP

Graham Bell cuts a dash to record the fastest time by a Briton, and a top-12 place, on the fearsome Hahnenkamm

Bell a star pupil in masterclass run by Ortlieb

FROM GRAHAM DUFFILL
IN KITZBÜHEL

GRAHAM Bell put Britain back on the fast track of downhill skiing in time for next month's winter Olympics at Lillehammer with a thrilling performance here on Saturday. His twelfth place, 1.60sec slower than Patrick Ortlieb's masterful fusion of raw skiing ability and tactical acumen, drew cheers of delight from the 20,000 crowd at the base of the run.

The race commentator grew so excited during Bell's descent that the racer could hear his name being yelled over the loudspeakers. Bell was mobbed after finishing, having set a time of 2min 1.79sec, the best result by a British skier on the Hahnenkamm, recognised as the toughest downhill course in the world.

If Bell provided the unexpected thrills on Saturday, it was Patrick Ortlieb, the 23-year-old Austrian, who gave the real downhill masterclass, having astutely chosen a late start time to allow early skiers to clear the course of new snow that fell overnight and again during the morning.

Thomas Stangassinger led Austrian domination of the men's World Cup slalom in Kitzbuehel yesterday with a combined time of 1min 37.85sec, 1.57sec faster than his team-mate, Thomas Sykora. Norway's Lasse Kjus won the combination event following victory in Saturday's downhill, ahead of his countryman, Kjetil-Andre Aamodt, and Austria's Guenther Mader. Alberto Tomba, third after the first leg, was unable to ski his expected strong second leg and finished third in 1:38.48.

Katja Seizinger, of Germany, won the women's World Cup super-giant slalom at Cortina D'Ampezzo on Saturday, with the Austrian, Ulrike Maier, second in 1:12.55. Anita Wachter, of Austria, beat Deborah Compagnoni, from Italy, in the giant slalom.

Lanner leads Swedish celebrations

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN MADEIRA

IT TOOK him 13 years but Mats Lanner yesterday won the Madeira Island Open to give hope to all the old stagers toiling away on the Volvo European Tour and raise visions of a permanent Swedish takeover of the leaderboard.

It was the first strokeplay victory for the 32-year-old from Gothenburg but his second win — he won the Epson Grand Prix, a matchplay event, in 1987 — and there were three other Swedes, all mere youngsters, in the top ten. "I had my doubts about winning again," Lanner said, "but deep down inside I always thought I'd crack it some day."

That day — or, more accurately, half-day — finally came in the chill early-morning air of Santo da Serra, over 2,000 feet above the balmy breezes of Funchal. Lanner only had to negotiate the second nine yesterday because the event had been reduced to 54 holes after low cloud had caused chaos throughout the week.

The Swede resumed his third and final round tied for the lead with his fellow countryman, Peter Hedblom, the son of his coach, and Howard Clark on nine under par. Lanner holed from 30 feet for a birdie three at the 10th to take a he never lost. He moved further ahead with a birdie two at the 13th, a par-three across a tree-filled gorge, where he judged the swirling wind perfectly and hit an eight-iron to 12 feet.

He also birdied the 15th, holing from six feet, and found himself three shots ahead of Hedblom and five ahead of Clark, who misjudged the wind and dropped shots at the 13th and 15th. Lanner then briefly gave his pursuers hope when he bogeyed the 16th, where he three-putted, and the short 17th, where he fluffed a nine-iron off the tee.

Hedblom, who had a birdie two, was now only a shot behind but the more experienced Lanner, who once sunk the putt that won the Dunhill Cup for his country, parred the last and Hedblom, 24 next week, did not. He shared second place, two shots behind, on 208, eight under par, with Mathias Gronberg, another Swede, and Clark, who birdied the 17th.

At the beginning of the year, Lanner, along with Gronberg and Hedblom, attended Apollo Week, the tour's training school, at San Roque in Spain, where he found the practice facilities excellent and the enthusiasm of the younger players infectious. The Swedes are very supportive of each other and Lanner, who nearly became the first Swede to play in the Ryder Cup in 1987, paid particular tribute to the influence of Joakim Haeggman, the man who did, last year.

☐ Laura Davies, of Britain, shot a six-under-par 66 to win the Thailand Ladies Open by seven strokes in Bangkok on Saturday.

208: M Lanner (Swe) 70, 67, 69. 209: M Gronberg (Swe) 69, 70, 69; P Hedblom (Swe) 69, 69, 70; H Clark 68, 67, 73. 211: M A Martin (Sp) 71, 69, 71; G Hjerstedt (Swe) 71, 67, 73; J Robinson 71, 68, 74. 212: P Eales 69, 73, 70; D Borrego (Sp) 69, 70, 73; P Broadhurst 70, 67, 75. 213: J Townsend (US) 67, 74, 72. 214: A Cejka (Ger) 72, 71, 71; D Curry 71, 71, 72; C Mason 71, 76, 73; T Price (Aus) 70, 70, 74; K Waters 71, 69, 75. 215: N Gocio 69, 76, 70; P Linhart (Sp) 74, 68, 73. 216: P Cuevas 74, 72, 70; J L Guepy (Fr) 74, 70, 72; L Westwood 72, 69, 75; D Williams 73, 68, 76; D Milovic (Can) 68, 73, 75; P Mayo 70, 70, 76; S Watson 72, 67, 77.

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	95	145	good	varied	art	fine	-9	15/1
(Crisp conditions and well-packed snow)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	25	85	good	powder	fair	sun	0	15/1
(Pistes very good)								
Mayrhofen	0	55	fair	varied	closed	fair	1	15/1
(Plenty of good skiing but some worn patches)								
Obergurgl	70	120	good	varied	good	fair	-9	14/1
(Very cold but snow in excellent condition)								
Söll	20	75	fair	varied	icy	fair	-2	15/1
(Good firm piste skiing on Eiberg)								
St Anton	50	210	good	powder	good	cloud	0	15/1
(Excellent skiing with good covering of fresh powder)								
FRANCE								
Avoriaz	135	175	good	powder	good	cloud	-4	16/1
(Perfect snow conditions thanks to cold weather)								
Isola	200	300	good	powder	good	fair	-5	15/1
(Fresh snow has given excellent powder skiing)								
S Chevalier	65	230	good	crust	good	fine	-3	14/1
(Generally excellent skiing)								
Tignes	140	315	good	varied	good	sun	-8	14/1
(Excellent skiing with powder still to be found)								
Val Thorens	160	360	good	varied	good	sun	-7	14/1
(Excellent snow though bitterly cold)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	75	75	good	powder	good	cloud	-3	15/1
(All pistes in first-class condition)								
Grindelwald	5	65	good	powder	worn	cloud	-1	14/1
(Now possible to ski down to village)								
Mürren	40	100	good	powder	good	snow	-3	16/1
(Good skiing after new snowfall)								
Zermatt	85	230	good	powder	fair	fine	-7	14/1
(All three areas now linked and in good shape)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Play-offs: AFC: Buffalo 29 Los Angeles Raiders 23. NFC: San Francisco 44 New York Giants 3

ATHLETICS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand: Indoor meeting: Selected winners: Men: 400m: A Male (GB) 46.77sec. 800m: M Steele (GB) 1min 51.42sec. 3,000m: A Bile (Som) 7:35.53.
LUTON: British Athletics Federation and UK inter-countries cross-country championships: Men (12km): 1, A Pearson (Yorks) 35min 48sec; 2 S Duval (Staffs) 37:10; 3, C Mochrie (Lancs) 37:20. Teams: 1, Yorkshire 95pts. Women (6km): 1, S McGeorge (Sussex) 20:35; 2, A Duke (North East) 20:36; 3, J Spark (Greater Manchester) 20:39. Team: 1, Sussex 206. Junior men: C Jones (North Wales) 24:27. Team: Greater Manchester 188.
HOUSTON: Marathon: Men: Winner: C Moore (GB) 2hr 13min 34sec.
ORLANDO: Walt Disney World marathon: Men: 1, L Shvetsov (Russ) 2hr 14.26sec, 5, H Jones (GB) 2:19.05.

BADMINTON

TAIPEI: Taipei Masters: Finals: Men's singles: H Arbi (Indo) bt T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) 15-3, 15-2. Women's singles S Susanti (Indo) bt Kim Ji-hyun (S Korea) 11-2, 11-5. Mixed doubles: M Sogaard (Den) and G Gowers (Eng) bt P Axelsson (Swe) and M Thomsen (Den) 18-14, 15-10.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: Atlanta 113 Dallas 98; New Jersey 103 Denver 96, Philadelphia 104 Indiana 102 (OT). LA Clippers 102 Boston 95; Minnesota 96 Orlando 92, Chicago 107 Utah 91; Golden State 121 Seattle 100; Charlotte 130 LA Lakers 122; Portland 115 Miami 110. Saturday: New York 97 Detroit 88; Cleveland 110 Philadelphia 87, Indiana 94 Atlanta 91, Washington 118 LA Clippers 109, Chicago 82 Houston 76; San Antonio 104 Dallas 87, Orlando 113 Milwaukee 105; Seattle 97 Miami 78; Phoenix 119 Sacramento 103.
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Friday: Sunderland Scorpions 80 Leicester Riders 99. Saturday: Hemel Royals 101 (Odeuzu 20, John 20, Noel 19) Sunderland Scorpions 109 (Saunders 32, Nottage 24, Puzic 17), Oldham Celtics 69 (Mentfield 25, Taylor 19, Sarpe 18) Chester Jets 86 (Book 16, Bannister 14, Crowe 10); Derby Bucks 87 (Lascelles 26, Stenson 25, Gardiner 13) Guildford Kings 78 (Baker 20, Byrd 18, Cummings 18) (OT); London Towers 95 (Moore 38, R Scantlebury 24, Bailey 14) Worthing Bears 94 (Lewis 24, Irish 20, Harried 17) (OT). Yesterday: Birmingham Bullets 73 (Thomas 21, Harrell 13, Simms 12) Leicester City Riders 54 (Waldron 23, Trasvant 12).
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Coventry 85 Ware 65; Crystal Palace 103 Stockton 57; Sheffield 83 Bury 76. Second division: Chiltern 56 Nottingham 73; Leicester 63 London E 65, Lewisham 75 Northampton 106; Stevenage 93 Mid Sussex 110. Women: First division: Rhondda 65 Chester 57, Sheffield 84 Barking and Dagenham 71. Second division: London Heat 78 Plymouth 38; Luton 76 Sunderland 68; Spelthorne 55 Cardiff 57.

BOXING

BETHNAL GREEN: Commonwealth bantamweight championship: Johnny Armour (Eng) bt Rufus Adebayo (Nigeria) rsc 7th.

CRICKET

GALLE, Sri Lanka: Second youth Test match: Sri Lanka 182 and 233, England 150 and 23-1.
NEW DELHI: Tour match (final day of three): Sri Lanka 157-9 dec (N D Hirwani 4-49), Indian Board XI 34-1. Match drawn.

GOLF

BANGKOK: Thailand women's Open championship: Leading final scores: 206: L Davies (GB) 70, 70, 66. 213: M Lunn (Aus) 71, 72, 70. 215: Lee Young Mi (S Kor) 71, 74, 70. 217: A Murff (Aus) 73, 74, 70. 218: C Hjalmarsson (Swe) 72, 70, 76.
HONOLULU: Hawaii Open: Leading three-round scores (US unless stated): 199: D Love III 68, 60, 71. 201: B Ogle (Aus) 65, 66, 69. 203: T Lehman 68, 67, 68. 204: J Maggert 69, 67, 68. 205: J Huston 70, 68, 67. L Clements 69, 66, 70. 206: H Sutton 70, 69, 67; S Stricker 68, 69, 69; D Ishii 70, 67, 69, J D Blake 70, 65, 71.
JOHANNESBURG: South African PGA tournament: Leading final scores (South Africa unless stated): 259: D Frost 64, 67, 65, 63. 268: N Price (Zim) 66, 66, 66, 68. 267: W Westner 65, 68, 71, 63. 268: E Els 68, 67, 66, 67. 272: C Dawson (GB) 69, 66, 68, 69. 274: A Johnstone (Zim) 65, 71, 71, 67; C Williams 67, 67, 73, 67. 275: R Fletcher 66, 74, 67, 68; R Wessels, 67, 67, 68, 73.

HOCKEY

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CUP: Fourth round: Old Loughtonians 3 City Of Portsmouth 1. Stourport 1 Havant 4. Fifth round: Beeston 2 Warrington 1. Harrogate 2 Trojans 1, Reading 2 Cannock 1 (aet); St Albans 1 Southgate 2; Surbiton 1 Teddington 2.
PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Old Loughtonians 1 Hounslow 3. Second Division: Harleston Magpies 2 Neston 1.
ERNST AND YOUNG LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 2 Khalsa 3; Coventry and North Warwickshire 2 Uchfield 0; Leicester Westleigh 1 Belper 0; Olton and West Warwick 1 Hampton in Arden 0; Worcester Norton 1 Trentham 1.
ERNST AND YOUNG NORTH PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding 1 York 1; Blackburn 2 Alderley Edge 0; Durham University 0 Hightown-Northern 1, Norton 3 Timperley 1; Southport 1 Formby 6.
NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Cambridge University 0 Norwich City 0.
MEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Isca 2 Taunton Vale 3; Redditch 1 Cheltenham 4; Surbiton 2 Guildford 2, Swindon 2 Pershore 1, Warrington 5 Bowdon 0; Teddington 4 Trojans 0; Ashby 3 GEC Rugby 4, Derby 2 Bloxwich 3; Evesham 0 Stourport 3, GEC Coventry 3 West Bridgford 3; Mansfield 1 Beeston 1; O Halesonians 4 Walsall 0; Wednesbury 2 Aldridge 1; Wolverhampton 4 Leek 1, Wombourne 2 O Shrewsbury 2.
WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division: Sherwood 0 Canterbury 1.
WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Colwyn Bay 4 Cwmbran 0; Penarth 1 Newton 0; Swansea 11 Newport 0.
WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Bracknell 1 Cardiff Atalanz 1, Cheltenham 2 Clifton 0 3, Hampton in Arden 2 Culcheth 5, Sheffield 2 Crimson Rambers 1; Sunbury 2 Camberley 3, Swindon 2 Basingstoke 2; Warrington 2 Sale 1.
AEWHA PLATE: Second round: Old Loughtonians 4 Milton Keynes 0, Sunbury 1 Hemel Hempstead 0; Tunbridge Wells 1 Crosby 2.
BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL INDOOR TOURNAMENT: Final: US Eagles 7 East Grinstead 6. Third place: Vikings 7 Antipodeans 4.
NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier division: Anchorians 7 Old Walcountians 1; Dulwich 0 Mid Sussex 1; Fareham 1 Winchester 2; Gore Court City Of Portsmouth 1 Hampstead 2 High Wycombe 1; Old Kingstonians 5 Hendon 1; Oxford Hawks 2 Maidenhead 1, Spencer 2 Lyons 1; Staines 0 Wimbledon 0; Tulse Hill 0 Chichester 1.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Caterham 2 Reigate GS 1; Cranleigh 1 King's, Canterbury 0, Daunday's 2 Kingswood 2; Framlingham 0 Norwich 3; Hurstpierpoint 0 Lancing 0; K.C.S Wimbledon 4 Reed's 0, Seaford 11 Brighton 0; Whitgift 0 St George's, Weybridge 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: Detroit 9 Dallas 3, NY Islanders 5 Montreal 2, NY Rangers 5 Philadelphia 2, New Jersey 5 Washington 2; Anaheim 6 Hartford 3; Vancouver 2 Ottawa 2 (OT). Saturday: Pittsburgh 4 Edmonton 3; Detroit 3 Boston 2; NY Islanders 5 Chicago 5 (OT), Los Angeles 5 New Jersey 3; Washington 4 Quebec 0; Calgary 10 Ottawa 0; Florida 5 Montreal 2; Toronto 5 Winnipeg 1; St Louis 2 Buffalo 1, San Jose 6 Hartford 2.
BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bracknell Bees 2 Humberside Hawks 15; Durham Wasps 7 Murrayfield Racers: Fife Flyers 6 Basingstoke Beavers 9, Nottingham Panthers 3 Cardiff Devils 5; Peterborough Pirates 7 Whitley Warriors 8 Billingham Bombers 1 Sheffield Steelers 11. First division: Blackburn Hawks 24 Oxford City Stars 2; Medway Bears 9 Dumfries Vikings 3, Guildford Flames 2 Paisley Pirates 14; Milton Keynes Kings 17 Chelmsford Chieftains 1, Slough Jets 11 Lee Valley Lions 6, Solihull Barons 11 Trafford Metros 7; Sweetham Redskins 4 Telford Tigers 9, Swindon Wildcats 5 Romford Raiders 6

ICE SKATING

COPENHAGEN: European figure skating championships: Men's qualifying round: Group A: Qualifiers: 1, V Zagorodniuk (Ukr); 2, D Dmitrenko (Ukr); 3, M Tylleson (Den); 4, E Millot (Fr); 5, R Winkler (Ger); 6, Z Karekes (Hun); 7, A Vlaschenko (Lat); 8, M Lemmen (Fin); 9, D Penado (Sp); 10, R Vnucko (Slovakia); 11, I Lutokov (Azar); 12, Z Komorowski (Pol). Group B: Qualifiers: 1, P Candeloro (Fr); 2, V Petrenko (Ukr); 3, A Urmanov (Ukr); 4, O Tataurov (Russ); 5, C Gheorghe (Rom); 6, S Cousins (GB); 7, H Walenta (Den); 8, M Eichhorn (Ger); 9, T Cerezi (Fr); 10, B Tsimisadze (Geo), 11, J-E Digernes (Nor); 12, I Dinev (Bul). Other British: 14, J Martin (GB)

MOTOR RALLYING

PARIS-DAKAR RALLY: Final special timed stage: Cars: Stage (Lastours-Lastours 423km): 1, H Auriol (Fr) Citroen 3h 37; 2, J Riviere (Fr) Bourgoin at 1:04; 3, P Lartigue (Fr) Citroen 2:00; 4, G Vismara (It) Suangyong 3:44; 5, R T Dalmau (Sp) Mercedes 4.41. Overall standings: 1, Lartigue 44h 29:27min; 2, Auriol at 1:28:35; 3, P Wambergue (Fr) Buggy 12:22:27; 4, H Masuoka (Japan) Mitsubishi 14:34:51; 5, F Germaneau (It) 17:04:58. Motorcycles: Stage: 1, J Arcarons (Sp) Cagiva 41:42; 2, E Onoli (It) Cavga at 34sec; 3, J Mayer (Ger) KTM 1:29; 4, B Posiechi (Cz Rep) KTM 1:57; 5, J L Gomez-Steuri (Sp) KTM 2:08. Overall standings: 1, Onoli 49hr 56:17min; 2, Arcarons at 1:13; 3, F Meoni (It) Honda 5:19.05; 4, A Casandoli (It) KTM 5:23:50; 5, P Sreyfol (Fr) Cagiva 8:35:13

REAL TENNIS

CANFORD SCHOOL, Dorset: George Wimpey British women's doubles championships: Semi-finals: S Jones and A Garside bt M Allen and S Mackintosh 6-1, 6-0; M Happell and F Deucher bt S Herbert and V Horn 6-2, 6-3. Final: Deucher and Happell walkover Jones and Garside

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship
First division

Featherstone	20	Halifax	16

Featherstone: Tries: Butt, Pearson, Gary H Price. Goals: Pearson 4. Halifax: Tries: Round, Schuster, Southernwood. Goals: Schuster 2. Att: 4,753.

Hull	22	Castleford	24

Hull: Tries: Doyle, Eastwood, Gay, Grant. Goals: Eastwood 3. Castleford: Tries: Anderson, Blackmore, Ford, Kemp, Morrison. Goals: Crooks 2. Att: 4,500.

Oldham	16	Hull KR	17

Oldham: Tries: Gibson, Jones, Ranson. Goals: Abram 2. Hull KR: Tries: Chamberlain, Parker. Goals: M Fletcher 3, Barkworth. Dropped goal: Chatfield. Att: 2,899

Sheffield	28	Bradford	29

Sheffield: Tries: David Fraisse 2, Gamson 2. Price. Goals: Aston 4. Bradford: Tries: Kebbie 3, Clark, Dixon. Goals: Fox 4. Dropped goal: Fox. Att: 4,275.

St Helens	11	Warrington	21

St Helens: Tries: Casey 2. Goal: P Loughlin. Dropped goal: O'Donnell. Warrington: Tries: Gregory, Myler, Penny. Goals: Dawes 4. Dropped goal: Dawes. Att: 8,765.

Wakefield	18	Leigh	10

Wakefield: Tries: Mason, Spencer, Woods. Goals: Paul 3. Leigh: Tries: Cheetham, Powley. Goal: Baldwin. Evans. Att: 2,548.

Widnes	30	Salford	22

Widnes: Tries: Davidson, Hadley, Hammond, Rusnak, Tyrer. Goals: O'Reilly 5. Salford: Tries: Critchley 3, Jack, O'Neill. Goal: Brown. Att: 4,583

Late result Friday: Leeds 14 Wigan 28.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warrington	18	14	0	4	392	244	28
Bradford	17	14	0	3	468	338	28
Wigan	15	13	0	2	441	227	26
Castleford	18	12	1	5	443	251	25
Halifax	18	10	2	6	376	304	22
St Helens	18	10	1	7	381	316	21
Featherstone	18	10	1	7	364	378	21
Widnes	18	9	0	9	320	358	18
Leeds	18	8	0	10	358	343	17
Salford	18	8	0	10	335	377	16
Sheffield	18	7	1	10	376	447	15
Hull	17	6	2	9	253	280	14
Hull KR	18	6	0	12	296	454	12
Wakefield	17	5	0	12	219	358	10
Oldham	18	4	0	14	321	397	8
Leigh	18	0	1	17	213	489	1

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Third round

Barrow	34	East Leeds	10
Bramley	46	Rochdl	20
Carlisle	43	Askam	6
Dewsbury	84	Hensingham	6
Doncaster	36	Wigan St Pete	4
Highfield	16	Saddleworth	13
Huddersfield	42	Woolston	8
Hunslet	58	Barrow Island	2
Keighley	68	Oulton	0
London Crus	40	Shaw Cross	14
Rochdale	32	Millom	0
Ryedale Yk	53	Leigh	2
Swinton	30	Irlam Hornets	0
Whitehaven	44	West Hull	4
Workington	24	Beverley	10

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Leicester v Sheffield Wednesday (7.0) Second division: Preston v Middlesbrough (7.30)
NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Swindon v Watford (7.30)
DIADORA LEAGUE CUP: Third round: Carshalton Athletic v Bishop's Stortford.

RUGBY UNION

Five nations' championship

France	35	Ireland	15

France: Tries: Benazzi, Benetton, Lacroix, Saint-Andre. Cons: Lacroix 3. Pens: Lacroix 3. Ireland: Pens: Elwood 5.

Wales	29	Scotland	6

Wales: Tries: Rayer 2, I Evans. Con: N Jenkins. Pens: N Jenkins 4. Scotland: Pens: G Hastings 2.

CIS Insurance
county championship
Semi-final

Yorkshire	13	Gloucestershire	12

Yorkshire: Try: West. Con: Plant. Pens: Plant 2. Gloucestershire: Pens: Hamlin 4.

Postponed: Cornwall v Durham.

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Gloucester	15	Newcastle G	9

Gloucester: Tries: Hotford, penalty try. Con: T Smith. Pen: T Smith. Newcastle Gosforth: Pens: Johnson 3.

Harlequins	22	Wasps	17

Harlequins: Try: O'Leary. Con: Bray. Pens: Bray 4. Dropped goal: Challinor. Wasps: Try: Old. Pens: Andrew 4.

Northampton	9	Bath	30

Northampton: Pens: Steele 3. Bath: Tries: Swift 2, de Glanville, penalty try. Cons: Callard 2. Pens: Callard 2.

Orrell	0	Leicester	18

Leicester: Tries: Boyle, Harris, Kilford. Pen: Harris

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bath	11	10	0	1	271	105	20
Leicester	11	9	0	2	225	114	18
Wasps	11	6	1	3	209	181	13
Harlequins	11	6	0	5	214	149	12
Gloucester	11	4	2	5	159	194	10
Bristol	10	4	0	6	140	156	8
Orrell	10	4	0	6	153	170	8
Northampton	11	4	0	7	173	219	8
L Irish	9	3	0	6	94	176	6
Newcastle G.	10	0	1	9	90	264	1

LEADING SCORERS: 134: R Andrew (Wasps: 2 tries, 11 conversions, 33 penalty goals, 1 dropped goal). 119: J Harris (Leicester: 2, 8c, 21pg, 10dg). 108: J Callard (Bath: 2, 16c, 22pg). 103: K Bray (Harlequins: 1t, 7c, 28pg). 83: P Grayson (Northampton: 2t, 7c, 22pg, 1dg). 68: M Tierney (Bristol, 7c, 18pg). 56: S Langford (Orrell: 4c, 14pg) 48: T Smith (Gloucester: 6c, 12pg). 44: D Johnson (Newcastle Gosforth: 1c, 14pg).

Second division

L Scottish	9	Waterloo	18

London Scottish: Pens: Wichary 3 Waterloo: Pens: Swindells 5. Dropped goal: Craig.

Nottingham	17	Rugby	6

Nottingham: Tries: Jackson, West. Cons: Gregory 2. Pens: Gregory. Rugby: Try: Pell. Con: Mapletoft. Pens: Mapletoft 2. Dropped goal: Pell.

Saracens	3	Sale	8

Saracens: Pen: Tunningley Sale: Tries: Verbickas. Pen: Turner.

Wakefield	13	Moseley	12

Wakefield: Tries: Scully, Thompson. Pen: Jackson. Moseley: Pens: Kerr 4

W Hartlepool	48	Otley	20

West Hartlepool: Tries: O Evans 2, Brown, Cooke, Hoddar, Wrigley, penalty try. Cons: Oliphant 5. Pen: Oliphant. Otley: Tries: Atkinson, Farrar, Adrian Scott. Con: Rutledge. Pen: Rutledge.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
W Hartlepool	11	9	1	1	267	162	19
Sale	10	7	1	2	180	88	15
Saracens	11	7	1	3	143	148	15
Wakefield	11	5	3	3	210	131	13
Waterloo	11	4	1	6	148	198	9
Rugby	11	4	1	6	98	160	9
Moseley	11	4	0	7	146	160	8
Nottingham	11	3	1	7	140	184	7
Otley	11	3	1	7	143	222	7
L Scottish	10	3	0	7	116	158	6

LEADING SCORERS: 102: G Gregory (Nottingham; 1 try, 5 conversions, 25 penalty goals, 4 dropped goals) 98: J Stabler (West Hartlepool: 1t, 15c, 18pg, 2dg). 88: A Tunningley (Saracens: 4t, 6c, 15pg). 81: R Lilley (Wakefield, 9c, 21pg) 77: M Mapletoft (Rugby, 4t, 5c, 14pg, 1dg). 78: S Swindells (Waterloo, 2c, 24pg). 74: P Rutledge (Otley: 3t, 4c, 18pg). 69: P Tur

Pressure on Davies eased with victory that banishes memories of defeat by Canada

Wales run Scotland ragged


ACTION IMAGES

Rayer, a replacement for the injured Walker, slides in and celebrates his second try for Wales during their 29-6 victory over Scotland at Cardiff Arms Park

Wales	29
Scotland	6

BY GERALD DAVIES

THESE teams, who entered the championship feeling nervous and fraught about their declining reputations, fashioned an absorbing match during an afternoon of continuous rain that fell on an already sodden pitch. The forecasts did not give rise to great expectations — there were apologetic noises about errors being plentiful and a minimum of passing — but, instead, there was excitement and top-class handling aplenty.

Perhaps it was not surprising. This fixture invariably produces its share of vivid rugby and from the moment the Scotland captain, Gavin Hastings, first touched the ball, kicking it high into midfield to begin a thunderous opening salvo from his team, this match was no exception. Apart, that is, from the violent mayhem which broke loose near the Scottish line after two minutes and which was out of context. It was not repeated.

Victory should be a huge boost to Wales's morale. But they should not be so misguided as to interpret the score other than as flattering. The win was rightfully theirs, but the large points difference was only achieved in the dying minutes. They ought to know what a big fall might await them if they misintepret the scoreline. Scotland's victory over them last season after the defeat of England should be lesson enough. But, for scarcity value alone, only the miserly would deny them their moment of celebration. After losing to Canada, they had suffered enough. Not the least to have suffered was Alan Davies, the Wales coach. His job was rumoured to have been in the balance.

"It is the performance I needed personally," he said on Saturday night. "The coach does become the focus of attention. Today showed the form of game we have been working towards. It is a relief that the work the players have put in showed on the field. The players themselves were determined to prove how good they are and to score three tries in the way we did gave a lot of satisfaction."

Hastings managed to remain chirpy. To have lost so heavily in his last two matches, after the many high points of his own career and his country's consistent success, was, he felt, "part of life's rich pattern". The margin did not matter; a defeat is a defeat. He would have felt just as disappointed, he said, if the two tries had not materialised at the end.

He might have been more disappointed with his own missed penalty in front of the Welsh posts, during a period

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

when there was a sudden resurgence in his team's efforts after Wales had scored their first try to give them a 17-3 lead 12 minutes into the second half. The penalty was awarded in controversial circumstances when Townsend's drop-goal looked to have scraped over. Some of the Scottish players remonstrated with the referee, who had whistled for a previous Welsh infringement.

Scotland had to field two of their replacements, with Wyllie coming on for Chalmers, who had a cheekbone injury, playing at centre and Townsend moving to stand-off half, and Weir for Morrison, who sustained a fractured fibula and tibia, but the enforced changes signalled an upturn in their fortunes. Their lineout improved and their frequent darting runs in midfield were dangerous to a home team suddenly grown complacent.

Wales's defensive organisation held true. Their back row was in magnificent form with Quinnell, in his first five nations' championship, prominent, but the guiding light was Jenkins, at stand-off half, who chose his options with clarity and decisiveness. He kicked four penalty goals to Hastings's one in the first half. His pass under pressure allowed Rayer, a replacement for Walker, who left the field with a deep cut on his forehead and suffering from concussion, to score a second try, which he also converted superbly from the touchline.

On one of the rare occasions the ball emerged to go right, a deft and calculated kick from Nigel Davies gave the Wales captain the rare chance of chasing the ball. Evans showed a clean pair of heels to Hastings, tapped the ball over the line, to score his thirteenth try for his country.

SCORERS: Wales: Tries: Rayer (2), I Evans. Conversion: N Jenkins. Penalty goals: N Jenkins (4). Scotland: Penalty goals: Hastings (2).
WALES: A Clement (Swansea); I Evans (Llanelli, captain), M Hall (Cardiff), N Davies (Llanelli), N Walker (Cardiff); N Jenkins (Pontypridd), R Moon (Llanelli); R Evans (Llanelli), G Jenkins (Swansea), J Davies (Neath), E Lewis (Llanelli), P Davies (Llanelli), G Llewellyn (Neath), M Perego (Llanelli), S Quinnell (Llanelli). Walker replaced by M Rayer (Cardiff, 11min).
SCOTLAND: G Hastings (Watsonians, captain); A Stanger (Hawick), G Townsend (Gala), T Jardine (Stirling County), K Logan (Stirling County); C Chalmers (Melrose), A Nicol (Dundee HSFP); P Wright (Boroughmuir), K Milne (Bristol's FP), A Burnell (London Scottish), D Turnbull (Hawick), N Edwards (Northampton), D Munro (Glasgow High-Kelvinside), I Morrison (London Scottish), R Wainwright (Edinburgh Academicals). Chalmers replaced by D Wyllie (Stewart's Melville FP, 54); Morrison replaced by G Weir (Melrose, 17).
Referee: P Robin (France).

Rayer revels in role of replacement

John Hopkins reports from Cardiff on a player who emerged from the supporting cast to take centre stage

South Wales has been as friendly as a bed of thistles for Scottish rugby supporters this month. On Friday, the Scotland Under-21 side lost to Wales Under-21 by six tries to none. On Saturday, the senior side conceded 29 points to Wales. Cardiff over the weekend resembled a sodden Flodden indeed.

You had thought that this game would decide the bottom place in the five nations' championship. You suspected it would determine the future of Alan Davies and Bob Norster, respectively the Wales coach and team manager. You knew that Welsh rugby was in trouble after the defeat by Canada. You thought all these things and you were right to do so.

If you thought Wales were in trouble before, you should see Scotland now. Those heavy defeats between lunchtime on Friday and teatime on Saturday are not the end of it. At Llanwern earlier in the month, Wales Under-18 ran in six tries to one against their Scottish counterparts and won 35-8. So Scotland have one try to show for 240 minutes of rugby between teams from the countries. What price the thistle now?

Yet if the damp acres of the Arms Park held no welcome for the Scots, the pitch was a field of dreams for Mike Rayer, the man who scored two of Wales' three tries. Rayer is one of those gifted men who seems destined to go through his international rugby career as a member of the supporting cast. This was his twelfth international and he doubled his try-scoring for Wales.

His natural position is full back, where he plays for Cardiff, but such are his ball skills and talent that he can cover at international level at wing and centre. In fact, he could probably play stand-off if push came to shove and even the demanding skills of scrum half might not be beyond him in an emergency. He is, in short, a footballer, as they say in Wales, from the top of his balding head to the toes of his twinkling feet.

It was just before half-time that he reminded us of this quality. As a Wales attack swept left, Rayer looked to have slightly overrun his pass. The slanting rain, the slippery pitch, the soapy ball, none of these mattered. He merely extended his right arm back and hooked the ball in to his chest.

For a man with hands such as these, and on a day such as this, to hold on to two scoring passes was no more difficult than singing "Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau" in the bath. "I've always told Mike he's a natural left winger," Ieuan Evans, the Wales right wing and captain, said with a smile.

Spare a thought for Nigel Walker, whom Rayer replaced. Walker demonstrated the speed for which he is famous as early as the fifth minute. He spotted Andy Nicol with the ball under Scotland's posts and went directly for him from 20 yards.

Few wings would have had the confidence to do this because Tony Stanger was in the clear outside Nicol and, in committing himself, Walker was leaving a chunk of undefended Welsh territory behind him. Other, lesser, slower and less confident wings would have thought to themselves: "Better hang off here and see what develops."

Walker knows his speed, however. He once corrected an interviewer who described him as "one of the fastest men in British rugby" by saying firmly: "*the* fastest man". Now he showed it. He flew at Nicol like a filing to a magnet, showing the sort of pace that took him to the semi-finals of the Olympic 100 metres hurdles in 1984. He caught the scrum half in possession, the Scots held on to the ball for too long and Wales were awarded a penalty that Neil Jenkins kicked.

Spare a thought, too, for the Davies-Norster axis, which has surely done enough not to be burdened with more sniping from discordant voices on the Wales national player development committee. Davies has coached Wales to four victories in nine championship matches and Norster has shown himself to be the master of self-deprecation whatever the occasion.

Here is a Welshman who demonstrates no trace of arrogance and condescension in victory nor tears and mandlin sentiment in defeat. Hail to the man.

France display strength as Roumat signals advance

France	35
Ireland	15

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

MUGGINGS, it is to be hoped, are rare in the fashionable sixteenth *arrondissement* but for the second successive occasion Ireland left the Parc des Princes stripped of their assets. The muscular French not only laid waste any prematch Irish optimism but also declared a statement of intent in their defence of the five nations' championship.

For any side to purr into life this effectively at the outset of the championship — three goals, a try and three penalty goals to five penalty goals — suggests they will not be easily beaten. Note, too, the confidence of a captain who chose to run two eminently kickable penalties at 23-15 going into the final quarter so as to give the Irish no chance to catch their breath.

"We wanted to lift the pace of the game," Olivier Roumat said. Any other captain in world rugby union would surely have called up Thierry Lacroix, who was kicking like a dream, to extend an eight-point lead, but then Roumat is growing into the job that became his by default in South Africa last year. The audacious moves succeeded as Ireland, out on their feet in the closing minutes, conceded two tries that turned the scoreboard from gallant Irish failure to something akin to the 44-12 wreckage of 1992.

Even the ace in their hand, Eric Elwood, was trumped. Elwood's return of five successful kicks from seven was well above the acceptable norm but Lacroix concluded with six out of seven and a try to boot.

The problem for the analysts in England, Scotland and Wales will be to judge to what degree France were flattered by Ireland's lack of pace, strength and fitness. Unlike two years ago, the Irish kept scrapping but it was last-ditch defence rather than front-line offence. They simply could not put in tackles of sufficient weight to stop the French forward momentum.

Bradley, the Ireland captain, spoke of staying in touch with one of the best sides in world rugby, which appeared the height of his side's ambition. One statistic from the second half tells the tale. Ireland spent four minutes in the French half, during which time Elwood kicked one penalty goal and missed another; at no stage did they construct a back movement and when Cunningham received a pass, he ran into a wall of Frenchmen.

One has to question whether all the Irish backs will survive the post-match inquest. At one stage, Sella was in so much space that the best-placed visitor to tackle him was Jim Fleming, and Wallace will have nightmares about how Saint-André rounded him for the try that finally breached the Irish dam.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	1	1	0	29	6	2
France	1	1	0	35	15	2
England	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	1	0	1	15	35	0
Scotland	1	0	1	6	29	0

REMAINING FIXTURES: February 5: Ireland v Wales; Scotland v England. February 19: England v Ireland; Wales v France. March 5: France v England; Ireland v Scotland. March 19: England v Wales; Scotland v France.

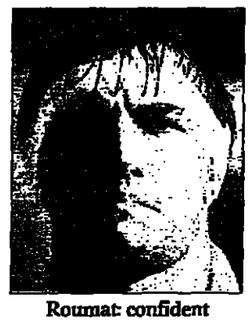
It says volumes for the strength of the French pack that the Irish scrum was creaking even before Clohessy left to have a head wound stitched. As it happened, the Irish were lucky; the number of technical mistakes the French made disturbed their continuity and they conceded several lineout penalties in their attempt to break up the well-prepared tactical shifts that Ireland called.

But if France gave away the greater weight of penalties, their mental discipline held impressively firm. "There were many faults in the French game and, at times, there was a lack of control both individually and collectively," Pierre Berbizier, their coach, said. "We got away with it today." They will do so again if players such as Penaud and Sadourny can perform with such cool authority as they did during the only genuine phase of Irish pressure, midway through the first half.

Even in the first half, Penaud was prepared to run from behind his own line and the combination of speed and strength makes him a hard man to pin down. In addition, he closed down Elwood's space marvellously.

The Irish could draw limited comfort from the interval score of 16-12, allowing for the fact that Cecillon had deflected Kingston's throw-in for a try by Benetton direct from the lineout. The Irish tackling was exposed when Lacroix, breaking to the blind side of a maul, spun and twisted out of reach for the second try.

Nonetheless, Ireland tried to vary their play with a couple of blind-side stabs by Bradley, only for the French tide to start swelling against them. Roumat and Benazzi made plunging runs before Saint-André, on the end of a relatively straightforward passing movement, crossed in the corner and Merle stretched out a huge hand on the end of a rumbling, rolling maul for a try that delighted the big man and his colleagues.


Roumat: confident

"We never thought our fortunes would change that quickly," Murphy said, the victories over Wales, England and Romania last year having been placed in harsh perspective. "We're talking about two years to a World Cup now and a lot more rugby to be played." Against the resurgent Welsh in Dublin, for one. Who will be doing the mugging on February 5?

SCORERS: France: Tries: Benetton, Lacroix, Saint-André, Merle. Conversions: Lacroix (3). Penalty goals: Lacroix (3). Ireland: Penalty goals: Elwood (5)
FRANCE: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers); P Bernat-Salles (Pau), P Sella (Agen), T Lacroix (Dax), P Saint-André (Montferrand); A Penaud (Brive), F Galthié (Colomiers); L Armary (Lourdes), J-M Gonzales (Bayonne), P Gallart (Beziers), P Benetton (Agen), O Merle (Grenoble), O Roumat (Dax, captain), A Benazzi (Agen), M Cecillon (Bourgoin).
IRELAND: C P O'Shea (Lansdowne); R M Wallace (Garryowen), V J G Cunningham (St Mary's College), P P A Danaher (Garryowen), S F Geoghegan (London Irish); E P Elwood (Lansdowne), M T Bradley (Cork Constitution, captain); N J Popplewell (Greystones), T J Kingston (Dolphin), P M Clohessy (Young Munster), M J Galwey (Shannon), P S Johns (Dungannon), N P J Francis (Old Belvedere), K D O'Connell (Sunday's Well), B P Robinson (Ballymena). Clohessy replaced by G F Halpin (London Irish, 57 min). R Saunders (London Irish), temporary replacement for Bradley (15-18 min).
Referee: J Fleming (Scotland).

Andrew's points record to no avail

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ROB Andrew kicked his way to the highest number of points for a player in a first division season of the Courage Clubs Championship on Saturday but his contribution at the Stoop was not enough to give Wasps the victory they needed to stay in touch with Bath and Leicester at the top of the league. Harlequins won 22-17, holding on to the advantage they had established in the first half.

Andrew landed two penalty goals either side of the break to take his total to 134 points in ten matches and, as well as surpassing John Liley's figure of 129 in 11 games for Leicester in 1991-92, continued his record of being the only player in the first division to score in each of his club's league matches this winter.

Stuart Barnes, Andrew's long-standing rival for the England stand-off half position, was in outstanding form for Bath in their 30-9 victory at Northampton, though he failed to get on the scoresheet. Barnes was instrumental in Swift's seventh-minute try and continued to put his impish skills to good use as Bath dominated.

It was only in the lineout that Northampton prospered. With Martin Bayfield approaching his best form again after injury, they enjoyed plenty of lineout possession, though some of it was ill directed.

In the CIS Insurance county championship semi-final at Otley, Gloucestershire narrowly missed out on a first trip to Twickenham for a decade, an injury-time penalty goal from the right touchline by Kevin Plant securing Yorkshire's 13-12 victory. It will be Yorkshire's third appearance in the final in four years.

Irish deficiencies expose need to expand championship

David Miller says rugby union on the home front must widen its horizons

It can surely be only a matter of time — shorter rather than longer — before the introspective five nations' championship in its present form becomes similar to the British international championship in football, a footnote in history.

More than a century of international glories for Ireland, begun when they first played against England at The Oval in 1874, were looking decidedly distant as the French comprehensively outplayed them at the Parc des Princes on Saturday.

It was rugby's amateurish nature, more than its amateur status — a game predominately determined by errors more than by consistent brilliance — that preserved for so long the pre-eminence of an exclusive five-team tournament, almost as insular in its way as baseball's so-called World Series in the United States. The more professional the game now becomes in every sense, not merely in financial rewards for the players, but efficiency of selection and, in this instance, France's tactical discipline, the harder it will be for Ireland, Wales, and Scotland to retain their unofficial world ranking.

Now and then, as against England last season, Ireland will cause a surprise and that, in turn, will raise the expectation of Irish players such as Elwood being included, against logical evidence, in a British Isles squad. Mostly, however, Ireland face a future of hanging on.

The five nations' championship is going to need expanding. This will be necessary not only to meet the growing status and expectation of other improving northern hemisphere nations but to satisfy public appetite. Rugby at the upper levels is entertainment more than it is player-pride and national satisfaction.

The more the game grows globally, the more parochial the five nations' will seem. It is a tough outlook for the Irish in particular, emphasised on Saturday when the margin could easily have been 30 points instead of 20. All the sporting gestures in print beforehand by commentators and rivals that "of course, you can never be sure", in deference to Ireland's prospects for the season, become thinner in substance with each successive year. Ireland's chances of achieving the grand slam, which last occurred in the great days of Jackie Kyle immediately post-war, are almost zero. They last won the triple crown in 1985, a feat that they also achieved in 1982 — their last championship triumph — both under the skilful captaincy of Fitzgerald.

They have not won in Paris for 22 years and you wonder if they ever will again. Thanks to Elwood's boot, they held France to 16-12 at half-time yet never looked like crossing the line whereas France, marvellously extemporising and taking risks, were threatening to do so at almost every stage of the match.

Gauging the strength of this French side is difficult, given the Irish inadequacies. The forwards held up for a while but eventually flagged and were overrun. From the outset, they had that slightly ragged appearance of a club side. Repeatedly, Ireland would win possession only to squander it. There was barely a single occasion of fluid Irish back play to raise the spirits of their many spectators, who were making their presence known, in the nicest possible way, throughout the previous 36 hours.

Bradley's service from the scrum to Elwood was so average that the outside half was constantly kicking under pressure. He was charged down several times. France might have scored when Penaud did so midway through the first half.

It would be difficult to find a pack with more ferocious faces than the French, who took the field bearing the burden of championship favourites. And there is little doubt that they exercised some physical intimidation on the Irish, notably Clohessy, not all of which the Scottish referee detected. There are those who would have small sympathy for Clohessy but, undoubtedly, this is a mean and menacing French unit.

The joys of the game came from the French willingness to run, with Sella — equally efficient defensively — switching the direction to Ireland's bewilderment, and Saint-André and Bernat-Salles galloping like deer on the wings.

There is always disagreement over the selection in any team sport, though this seems to be the case with Irish rugby more than anywhere else. It would be difficult to say, however, whether any alternatives might now have reduced French supremacy.

Lathwell's last chance disappears

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON

WHEN the final over began last night, England A could look forward to a night of untroubled slumbers. Asked to make 453 to beat Orange Free State, they started their innings comfortably enough to suggest a draw was within their compass. Hugh Morris and Mark Lathwell had made 58 runs with common sense and increasing confidence.

After two serene boundaries off Nicky Boje, who was turning his left arm spin into the rough outside the left hander's off stump, he took a single from the first ball, leaving Lathwell to play the remaining five.

Lathwell pushed his front pad tentatively towards the first of them and was horrified to hear the death rattle, bowled around his legs for 29. Paul Taylor, the night-watchman, aimed a drive at Boje's last ball — a well-aired floater — and he, too, was bowled. At 59 for two England will do well to avoid a heavy defeat.

Even if they bat all day, one thing is clear: Lathwell's involvement on this tour is over. His last nine completed innings have produced a top score of 36. England's patience in waiting for a return on their investment is surely over: he must be dropped to give opportunities to others.

The game with Border, which starts in East London on Friday, is the final preparation for the five-day Test against South Africa A. If the management hold to the principle of selecting the Test side there, John Crawley is likely to open with Morris, and Adrian Dale, on hold because of the pro-Lathwell policy, will bat at No 3.

Morris, who resumes on 25, will make sure his men fight until the last man drops; they certainly have a lot to atone for. For the second time on this tour England have been thoroughly outplayed.

On each occasion they have not responded well to the pressure opponents can apply when they have put a decent first innings score on the board.

Orange Free State's 370 was not a formidable one on this pitch but, despite this, England surrendered their first six wickets on Saturday almost in the manner of club cricketers.

Rhodes, for example, miscued a high full toss lobbed up by Venter.

Franklyn Stephenson declined to enforce the follow-on, despite England's deficit of 190. When the Orangemen batted again Michael Arthur, who has made a 91 and 99 on this ground this season, made the first century against the A team this winter; he gave himself out after gloving a hook off Taylor.

Although the State side dallied as they approached the declaration they will expect to win today. On the evidence of the first three days they deserve to.

ORANGE FREE STATE: First Innings 370 (G F J Liebenberg 82, P J R Steyn 80; M J McCague 4-84).

Second Innings

J M Arthur c Rhodes b Taylor	108
G F J Liebenberg lbw b Gough	21
J F Venter c Morris b Such	33
L J Wilkinson c Gough b Dale	0
C F Craven c Lathwell b Gough	37
P J R Steyn c Loye b Such	11
*F D Stephenson b Such	2
B T Player run out	9
†P J L Radley not out	12
N Boje b Taylor	0
H Bakkes not out	21
Extras (b 2, lb 1, nb 7)	10
Total (9 wkts dec)	262

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-117, 3-120, 4-182, 5-202, 6-217, 7-227, 8-228, 9-230.

BOWLING: McCague 9-0-26-0; Gough 17-2-49-2; Such 35-5-88-3, Taylor 19-2-65-2; Dale 7-0-31-1

ENGLAND A: First Innings

M N Lathwell b Stephenson	0
*H Morris b Bakkes	2
J P Crawley c Radley b Player	31
A P Wells c Venter b Stephenson	53
M B Loye st Radley b Venter	11
A Dale c Stephenson b Bakkes	20
†S J Rhodes b Venter	3
D Gough c Radley b Craven	15
J P Taylor lbw b Stephenson	11
M J McCague c Liebenberg b Craven	14
P M Such not out	12
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 1, nb 2)	8
Total	180

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-4, 3-71, 4-94, 5-98, 6-102, 7-131, 8-142, 9-152.

BOWLING: Stephenson 15-4-48-3; Bakkes 16-4-32-2; Craven 13.3-2-35-2; Player 17-5-22-1; Venter 6-0-23-2; Boje 12-5-15-0.

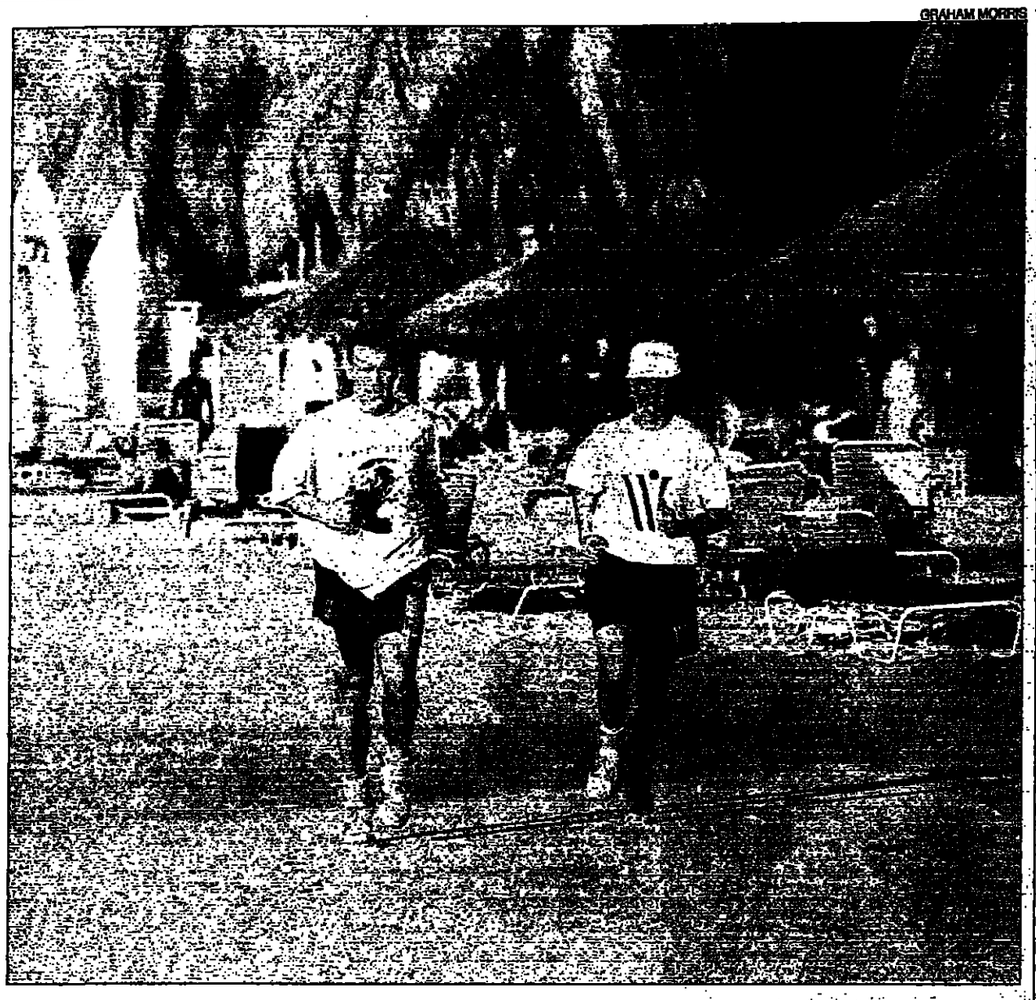
Second Innings

M N Lathwell b Boje	29
*H Morris not out	25
J P Taylor b Boje	0
Extras (lb 1, nb 4)	5
Total (2 wkts)	59

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-59, 2-59.

Umpires: W Wilson and C Mitchley

GRAHAM MORRIS



Alec Stewart (left) and Jack Russell quickly got the travel weariness out of their limbs with a run on the beach upon the England cricket tour party's arrival in Antigua. Russell's eagerness to be involved on his return to England duty, after missing the tour to India and Sri Lanka last winter, saw him volunteer to be the first man in the nets as England opened practice at the Recreation Ground in St John's. After batting comfortably against the spinners, Russell had greater problems against the quicker bowlers and was bruised on the shoulder when he misjudged a short ball from Angus Fraser. Russell's brush with the bouncer apart, the only thing that ruffled England's preparations was the time it took the ground staff to assemble the nets. After they had hammered and shouted for nearly two hours, Devon Malcolm proved his skills as a handyman by helping them complete the job.

Kirsten suffers broken cheek-bone

PETER Kirsten sustained a broken cheek-bone as South Africa beat Australia by 82 runs in Perth yesterday to raise their hopes of reaching the World Series Cup limited-overs finals. The victory lifted South Africa to second in the triangular tournament, level on seven points with New Zealand, who slipped to third place on run-rate.

New Zealand must beat Australia in the last round-robin match in Melbourne on Wednesday to reach the best-of-three finals ahead of South Africa. Australia have already qualified.

Kirsten was taken to hospital after being struck in the helmet by a bouncer from Glenn McGrath in the third over. The ball dented Kirsten's protective face grille and an x-ray revealed a fracture in the left cheek-bone.

His opening partner, Gary Kirsten, his half-brother, made a defiant 55 as South Africa built their innings on a fast, bouncy pitch that offered movement and encouragement to the bowlers.

Richard Snell, the fast bowler, was the most successful South Africa bowler with three wickets, including the openers, David Boon and Mark Taylor, the acting Australia captain in the absence of Allan Border, who was rested.

SOUTH AFRICA

P N Kirsten retired hurt	5
G Kirsten c Zoehrer b M E Waugh	55
*W J Cronje c Warne b Reiffel	11
J N Rhodes run out	14
D J Cullinan c Warne b M E Waugh	34
D J Callaghan lbw Warne	26
†D J Richardson run out	25
R P Snell not out	20
C R Matthews st Zoehrer b Warne	0
P S de Villiers not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 8, w 9)	18
Total (7 wkts, 50 overs)	208

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-69, 3-133, 4-133, 5-175, 6-196, 7-196.

BOWLING: McGrath 10-1-38-0; Reiffel 10-2-25-1; Fleming 7-0-42-0; S R Waugh 6-0-32-0; Warne 10-0-36-2; M E Waugh 7-0-26-2.

AUSTRALIA

D C Boon c sub b Snell	11
*M A Taylor c Richardson b Snell	29
D M Jones c sub b Matthews	10
M E Waugh c sub b Callaghan	14
S R Waugh c Richardson b Callaghan	25
D R Martyn c Richardson b Cronje	0
†T J Zoehrer lbw de Villiers	9
P R Reiffel not out	10
S K Warne run out	1
D W Fleming lbw Matthews	2
G McGrath b Snell	4
Extras (lb 8, w 1, nb 1)	11
Total (41 overs)	126

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-49, 3-57, 4-82, 5-93, 6-93, 7-109, 8-110, 9-121

BOWLING: Donald 8-0-20-0; de Villiers 8-2-19-1; Snell 7-0-26-3; Matthews 7-1-20-2; Cronje 8-1-17-1; Callaghan 5-1-15-2.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Horner on brink of elusive first title

SUZANNE Horner, of Wakefield, the perennial squash finalist, once again stands one match away from a British title. Yesterday, she defeated Jane Martin, of Northumbria, 9-6, 9-2, 9-6 in a 37-minute semi-final of the SRA national championships at Herts Country Club in Welwyn Garden City (Colin McQuillan writes).

It is 30-year-old Horner's fourth attempt to win the national title and, with Cassandra Jackman, the defending English champion, failing against Martin in the quarter-finals on Saturday, it may prove to be her best opportunity.

In the first of the men's semi-finals yesterday, Peter Marshall, the top seed, from Nottingham, dismissed Tony Hands, of Essex, 9-4, 9-2, 9-5 in 71 minutes. In the second, Peter Nicol was due to meet Jason Nicolle, another Nottingham-based England international, who surprisingly beat Chris Walker on Saturday. Simon Parke, of Yorkshire, seeded like Walker, also lost unexpectedly.

Conner's lead reduced

YACHTING: Dennis Conner and his Whitbread Round the World race crew were clinging on to their lead last night as Chris Dickson, on *Tokio*, and Lawrie Smith, on *Intrum Justitia*, closed on Conner's *Winston* as the fleet rounded Tasmania. A series of low-pressure systems sweeping eastwards across the fleet have helped the leading challengers to close to within 25 miles of the American yacht. Robin Knox-Johnston and Peter Blake set out from Brest, France, yesterday in an attempt to break the 79-day, six-hour record for a non-stop sailing circumnavigation.

Eight syndicates — two each from France, Australia and New Zealand, one from Japan and one from Spain — have paid the $250,000 (£165,000) performance bond to enter the 1995 America's Cup challenger trials.

Tense win for Towers

BASKETBALL: London Towers and Derby Bucks needed overtime before toppling strong opposition in the Budweiser League on Saturday. Towers were 11 points down in the third quarter against Worthing Bears, the league champions, but hit back to win 95-94 after the extra period. A three-pointer on the buzzer from Richard Scantlebury, of London, had tied the game at 82-82 at the end of normal time. Derby's first victory over Guildford Kings, 87-78, was inspired by Tim Lascelles, who scored 28 points. The teams were level on 66 points after regulation play.

Wasim stands down

CRICKET: A Pakistan players' revolt yesterday led to Wasim Akram's replacement as captain by Salim Malik for the tour of Bangladesh and New Zealand. Ten players refused to tour under Wasim, claiming they wanted Javed Miandad and two other dropped players to be restored to the team. Waqar Younis, the group's spokesman, said he approved of Malik's appointment by an ad hoc committee, which succeeded the recently dismissed Pakistan cricket board. Waqar, replaced as tour vice-captain by Asif Mujtaba, said players were "uncomfortable" under Wasim.

Way sinks Surbiton

HOCKEY: Teddington overcame a spirited challenge by Surbiton to win 2-1 and reach the sixth round of the Hockey Association Cup yesterday. Teddington had the edge in both periods but were startled when James Duthie cancelled out Phillip McGuire's opener in the 48th minute. Paul Way scored decisively for Teddington from a short corner in the 53rd minute. A goal by Duncan Woods in the last 90 seconds clinched victory for Southgate, who beat St Albans 2-1. Cannock lost 2-1 to Reading after extra time.

Devils' run continues

ICE HOCKEY: Home advantage went out the window in the British League premier division on Saturday as the visiting teams took all the points. Cardiff Devils recorded their tenth consecutive win by beating Nottingham Panthers 5-3 and now lead the premier division by five points ahead of Fife Flyers, who lost 9-6 against Basingstoke Beavers despite leading 6-2 going into the final period. Murrayfield Racers scraped an 8-7 win over Durham Wasps, Mike Ware scoring the winner 18 seconds from the end.

Boardman unruffled

CYCLING: Chris Boardman, the Barcelona Olympics pursuit champion, has played down challenges from Graham Obree, of Scotland, and the Italian, Francesco Moser, 42, who went within 430 metres of the Briton's professional world one-hour record of 52.270km in Mexico City on Saturday. Moser once held the record for almost ten years. Boardman said: "My priority this year is to settle into the life of a full-time professional on the continent and then try to win the world pursuit title in August."

Bills one step away

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Jim Kelly threw two second-half touchdown passes to Bill Brooks as Buffalo beat the Los Angeles Raiders 29-23 in an AFC play-off game at Rich Stadium on Saturday. It moved the Bills to within one win of a fourth consecutive Super Bowl place. Ricky Watters ran for a play-off record of five touchdowns as the San Francisco 49ers beat the New York Giants 44-3 to advance to the NFC championship game. After the game, Lawrence Taylor, the Giants linebacker, announced his retirement.

No fee, no stars

ATHLETICS: Leonid Shvetsov, of Russia, was the main beneficiary yesterday of Disney World's decision to pay prize-money only, without appearance fees, in the first international marathon held in the Florida theme park. None of the world's top 30 runners competed as Shvetsov recorded a time of 2hr 14min 27sec to take the $15,000 first prize.

☐ Colin Moore, of Britain, won the Houston marathon yesterday in a personal best of 2hr 13min 34sec.

O'Reilly misses trials

SPEED SKATING: Wilf O'Reilly, a leading medal prospect for Britain in the winter Olympics, did not compete in the European short-track championships in Bruges, Belgium, over the weekend, casting doubts over his Olympic selection. Instead, O'Reilly, who won the world title in 1991, was with his Dutch girlfriend, Monique Velzeboer, who suffered a training accident last month and is now partly paralysed. O'Reilly remains in training and hopes to still gain one of the two Olympic places.

Chen beats champion

TABLE TENNIS: Chen Xinhua, the England No 1, beat Jean-Philippe Gatien, the world champion, of France, in the European Nations' Cup in Bayreuth, Germany, on Saturday but England still lost 3-1. Chen, who had also got the better of Gatien in the Swedish Open in November, this time beat him 21-18, 16-21, 21-6. Carl Prean lost 21-16, 22-20 to Patrick Chila and, playing with Alan Cooke in the doubles, went down 21-10, 21-18 to Chila and Gatien. England later lost 3-2 to Austria to finish bottom of their group.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

STATE RAIL AUTHORITY OF NSW, AUSTRALIA

Supply of New Rails Over a Two Year Period

SPECIFICATION No. F93/5633

Tenders closing at 10.00 am on Wednesday March 30 1994 are invited for the supply and delivery FIS (free in store), Chullora, Sydney, NSW, of approx. 20,000 tonnes of 60kg Standard New Rails as per Australian Standard AS 1085.1-1990 and approx 40,000 tonnes Head Hardened New Rail as per Australian Standard AS 1085.11-1992 over a period of two years to meet the Authority's Programme. Each consignment of rail will be ordered on an as required basis.

Copies of tender documents (AUD$150.00 per set non-refundable - payment by cheque only, to be made payable to State Rail Authority) are obtainable from Room 1007, 10th Floor, Transport House, 11 - 31 York Street, Sydney, Australia, NSW, 2000, between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm, Sydney Time, Monday to Friday.

All enquiries should be directed to Mr Ashok Verma. Telephone 61 - 2 - 224 4285. Fax No. 61 - 2 - 244 4753.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LICENSING ACT 1964 SOUTH CENTRAL PETTY SESSIONAL DIVISION AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

WE Michael Simon Green and Peter Ricardo Ross of c/o Brook House, Chertsey Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5BE and c/o Brook House, Chertsey Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 5BE having for the last six months carried on the trade or calling of Operations Controller and Store Manager respectively do hereby give notice that it is our intention to apply to the Licensing Justices for the Croydon Petty Sessional Division at the Transfer Sessions to be held at the Court House, Barclay Road, Croydon, London on Wednesday 2nd February 1994 at 10.00 am for the grant to us of a Justices Licence authorising us to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions by retail for consumption off the premises situate at 162-164 Addington Road, Selsdon, Croydon to be known by the sign of "7-Eleven" as more particularly defined on a plan deposited with the Clerk to the Licensing Justices.

Dated this 10th day of January 1994.

Hart Phillips 11/12 Queen Square Bristol BS1 4NT Solicitors and Authorised Agents on behalf of the Applicant

TO the Clerk to the Licensing Justices for the Licensing District of Brent sitting at The Court House, Church End, 448 High Road, Willesden, London NW10 2DZ.

TO the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Kilburn Police Station, 58 Salusbury Road, Kilburn, London NW6 6NN.

I, ROBERT JOSEPH TRACEY of 47 Station Road, London N W.10 hereby give you notice that I intend to apply to the said Licensing Justices at the Transfer Sessions to be held at The Court House, Church End, 448 High Road, Willesden, London N W.10, on the 8th day of February 1994 for a Special Hours Certificate under Section 77 of the Licensing Act 1964 for the licensed premises situate at 47 Station Road, London N.W.10, and known as WILLESDEN JUNCTION HOTEL.

DATED the 4th day of January 1994.

Hodders of 11 Station Road, Harlesden, London NW10 4UD. Solicitors and Agents for the Applicant.

TO the Clerk to the Licensing Justices for the Licensing District of West London, Walton Street Magistrates' Court, The Court House, 1A Walton Street, Chelsea, London SW3 2JG

TO the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Hammersmith Police Station, 226 Shepherds Bush Road, London W.6.

TO the Senior Licensing Officer of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Old Town Hall, Fulham Broadway, London SW6 1ET

TO the Chief Officer, L.F.C.D.A., Marion House, 61/65 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3JQ.

WE, NICHOLAS MARTIN KENNY now residing at 41 Petsgrove Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, having during the past six months carried on the trade or calling of Licensee and Nightclub Owner, and ANTHONY JOHN DOUGLAS now residing at 102 Goldhawk Road, London W.12, having during the past six months carried on the trade or calling of Licensed and Manager, do hereby give you notice that it is our intention to apply at the Transfer Sessions for the said District to be held at The Court House, 14 Wallton Street, Chelsea, London S.W.3. on the 2nd day of February 1994 for the grant to us of a Justices' Licence authorising us to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption ON the premises situate at Shepherds Bush Green, London W 12 and to be known by the sign of THE BOTTOM LINE of which premises Meador Limited is the owner

DATED the 4th day of January 1994

Hodders of 11 Station Road, Harlesden, London NW10 4UD. Solicitors and Agents for the Applicants.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Floridhurst Limited The Insolvency Act and Rules 1986

In accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Brian Mills of Booth White, 2 Nelson Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, SS1 1EF, give notice that on 7th January 1994, I was appointed Liquidator of Floridhurst Limited by resolutions of members and creditors.

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 7th April 1994 to send in their full Christian and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned Brian Mills of 2 Nelson Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex, SS1 1EF, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.

Dated: 7 January 1994

Brian Mills, LIQUIDATOR.

No. 0010945 of 1993 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF FISHFICHET LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 21st December 1993 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £1,000,000 to £150,000

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on Wednesday the 26th day of January 1994

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any creditor requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors by the payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 17th day of January 1994.

Meyers, Limbrell and Company 382 Silbury Court, Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK9 2AJ

Solicitors for the above-named Company

VERRAN ELECTRONICS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)

Principal Trading Address: Unit 6 Cedarwood, Chineham, Business Park, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 0WD

Company Number 2295271

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 6 January 1994 R S Preece was appointed liquidator of the above named company (creditors' voluntary winding up).

Creditors of the company who have not already done so should submit their claims in writing to the liquidator at the following address under reference NDN/DCW/

Touche Ross & Co P O Box 810 Cedric House 8-9 East Harding Street London EC4A 3AS

WRIT OF SUMMONS

To CLARE INSTONE late of 265 Thames Hamlet, Grays, Thurrock, Essex

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the High Court of Justice, Queens Bench Division, Milton Keynes District Registry on 15 March 1993, Case No. 1993 A No. 98 by Abbey National plc of Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL in which the Plaintiff's claim is for an Order pursuant to the Court's inherent jurisdiction that the Plaintiff be granted relief from forfeiture of the premises known as 265 Thames Hamlet, Grays, Thurrock, Essex as at the same is registered at H.M. Land Registry under Title No EX 421845 and which was demised by a lease dated 4 November 1989 made between Fairview New Homes Plc of the first part and Clare Louise Instone of the second part and Thames Hamlet (Block F) Management Company Ltd of the third part on such terms as the Court shall think fit as to the payment of rent, interest, costs and otherwise

AND IT HAS BEEN ORDERED by the High Court of Justice that service of the Originating Summons in this action on you be effected by this advertisement.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that you must within 14 days from the publication of this advertisement inclusive of the day of such publication, acknowledge service of the said Originating Summons by completing a prescribed form of Acknowledgement of Service which may be obtained on request from the solicitors whose name and address appear below, otherwise judgment may be entered against you.

DENTON HALL of Regency Court, 206-208 Upper Fifth Street, Milton Keynes MK9 2HR. Ref. JDSF/CEP/09903.0054. Solicitors for the Plaintiff.

Dated the 1st day of December 1993

LEGAL NOTICES

BERTHOLD INSTRUMENTS (UK) LTD

BERTHOLD (UK) LTD

WALLAC (UK) LTD. (All in Members' Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. On 31 December 1993 the above companies were placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Anthony William Brierley of P O Box 88, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT, was appointed Liquidator of each of the companies by the Members.

The Liquidator gives notice pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the companies to A W Brierley, P O Box 88, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT by 28 February 1994.

The Liquidator also gives notice under the provision of Rule 4.182A(4) that on 31 March 1994, he intends to make a final return to creditors who have submitted claims by 28 February 1994 and that there will be no further distribution to creditors.

The companies are able to pay all of their known creditors in full.

Dated 10 January 1994

A.W. BRIERLEY, Liquidator

DUNCAN LACEY & BROS LIMITED

Registered Number: 2519782

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The Bonwell Room, The Wrieksley Hotel, 1 Lansdowne Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 2BX on Thursday, the 3rd day of February 1994 at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purposes of having a report by me, the Joint Administrative Receiver, laid before it together with a summary of the Statement of Affairs of the Company, and if thought fit, to appoint a Creditors' Committee. Forms of proxy are available which should be completed if you cannot attend the meeting and wish to be represented, and returned to me at: Levy Gee and Partners, 7th Floor, Western House, 86 Dingwall Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 0XH by the date of the meeting.

In order to be entitled to vote at the meeting you must give to me, details in writing of your claim, not later than 12.00 hours on the business day before the day of the meeting.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at this meeting.

The statutory report prepared by the (Joint) Administrative Receiver of the named Company, pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, is available free of charge and on written request to me.

Paul M Davis FCA Joint Administrative Receiver

No. 009778 of 1993 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION Re: THE MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR COMPANY and Re: THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 12th January 1994 confirming the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company from £104,087,354 to £9,057,354 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 13th January 1994.

DATED 13th January 1994

SLAUGHTERS & MAY (MRB) Solicitors to the Company

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receivers

M&S Group Limited

Registered number: 1223468.

Nature of business: Computer Services. Trade Classification: 36

Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 22nd December 1993. Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: Midland Bank plc. Joint Administrative Receivers: D. Swaden, FCA and P Monlack, FCA (office holder nos: 5495 and 2344) Leonard Curtis & Partners, Third Floor, Peter House, Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 5AB.

The Insolvency Act 1986 THERMASEAL (BEDFORD) LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA of Poppleton & Appleby, 4 Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6EN was appointed Liquidator of the said Company by members and creditors on 17th December 1993.

Dated this 17th day of December 1993.

M R Dorrington, Liquidator.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE ALL YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS PLEASE CALL DEBRA GYNN

TEL: 071-782 7344 or FAX: 071-481 9313

Torvill and Dean still working on changes

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN COPENHAGEN

THE European skating championships began quietly here yesterday, with the men's qualifying event, but the competition gets into full swing today when Katarina Witt takes to the ice.

Witt makes her first European appearance since she won her seventh successive title in 1988, in the women's qualifying competition. Torvill and Dean return to the international amateur stage tomorrow with their compulsory dance but have their first free dance practice this morning.

They have apparently made various changes, and these are presumably to their free programme, since the compulsory leaves little latitude for personal imprint and the original rumba they unveiled at Sheffield the week before last was so hauntingly effective that they would be unwise to tamper with it.

Is it possible that a less than universal capitulation to their free dance in Sheffield, apart from those on the judging panel, has prompted a reconsideration; or is it simply that Dean, notoriously hard to satisfy, has since developed new ideas?

Witt has added the triple loop to her otherwise limited repertoire, for probable use in the championship proper, where it would greatly enhance her prospects of repelling the elfin figures who otherwise dominate women's skating these days.

Steven Cousins, the British champion, qualified in sixth place in group B yesterday, a result good enough to give him a seeded position in Wednesday's technical programme. John Martin, of Scotland, had a bad day and fourteenth place means his competition is over.

☐ Elvis Stojko beat Kurt Browning, the four-time world champion, at the Canadian figure skating championships on Saturday but fell trying to become the first to land a quadruple jump in combination. Browning took the silver medal and Sebastien Britten the bronze. All three earned places at next month's Winter Olympics in Lillehammer.

Fox gives Northern precious late drop

Sheffield Eagles	28
Bradford Northern	29

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

BRADFORD Northern have turned comebacks into a speciality this season, but their powers of recovery received their severest test in a marvellous rugby league encounter containing ten tries yesterday.

At 18-0 down approaching half-time, the situation appeared even more hopeless than when they fought back against the same opponents last September after slipping 16 points behind.

With the move from full back to stand-off half, Watson was his side's saviour and Sheffield's tormentor. His incisiveness was responsible for a score under the posts by Clark and two of a hat-trick by Kebbie in 21 minutes of the second half.

Sheffield, who are renowned for surrendering big leads in many ways, were the architects of their fate, yet after allowing Bradford back, they drew level eight minutes from time when Gamson went over.

The move appeared to have foundered when Fraisse ignored Plange on the overlap. However, the Frenchman played his full part the game, scoring two first-half tries and then setting up Gamson.

A fine 35-yard break by Sheridan provided Price with a score to stem the Bradford tide after the interval. Aston added his fourth goal, but could not kick another after Gamson's late try. A minute from normal time, Fox's second dropped goal attempt was decisive.

Bradford are now level on points with Warrington, who took over at the top of the first division from Wigan with their 21-11 defeat of St Helens.

☐ Elvis Stojko beat Kurt Browning, the four-time world champion, at the Canadian figure skating championships on Saturday but fell trying to become the first to land a quadruple jump in combination. Browning took the silver medal and Sebastien Britten the bronze. All three earned places at next month's Winter Olympics in Lillehammer.

SCORERS: Sheffield Eagles: Tries: Fraisse (2), Gamson (2), Price. Goals: Aston (4). Bradford Northern: Tries: Kebbie (3), Clark, Dixon. Goals: Fox (4). Dropped goal: Fox.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES: M Gamson, L Stott, R Price, D Fraisse, D Plange; D Powell (sub: R Sheridan, 14min), M Aston; A Thompson (sub, Grimoldy, 77), L Jackson, N Grimoldy (sub: Carr, 58), P Carr (sub: I Hughes, 41), S McGuire, A Farrell.

BRADFORD NORTHERN: D Watson; N Summers, D Sheard, P Newlove, B Kebbie; D Heron (sub: R Simpson, 24), D Fox; P Grayshon (sub: Heron, 58), T Clark, J Hamer, R Powell, P Dixon, K Fairbank. Referee: C Morris.

Warwick's example paves way

Board to explore fixture transfers

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

THE British Horseracing Board (BHB) is to explore the feasibility of re-routing entire fixtures to locations free from inclement weather following the successful experiment at Warwick on Saturday, when the Victor Chandler Chase was transferred, at short notice, from waterlogged Ascot to the Midlands track.

Tristram Ricketts, managing director of the BHB, cited the large Saturday attendance as evidence of the attraction to racegoers of top-class racing. Ricketts, who attended the fixture, said yesterday: "One only had to look at the crowd at Warwick to sense that a lot of the extra attendance was because of the quality of the Victor Chandler Chase. The day was a great success."

As a result, Paul Greeves, the BHB's director of racing, is to head a team from the race planning department that will examine whether an entire day's racing can be transferred to a new venue if conditions at the host track, such as snow or waterlogging, place the fixture in serious doubt. "Events of the past ten days have highlighted the need to try to find a solution or to explain why it can't be done," Ricketts said.

The difficulties inherent in transferring meetings at short notice include the interests of sponsors, implications for television coverage, advance betting on races, the fixture's lack of promotion and the question of financial compensation.

"These are real problems which will not be easily resolved but there are obvious advantages if it can be achieved," Ricketts said.

This flexibility in the BHB's outlook allowed David Nicholson to land the Victor Chandler Chase with Viking Flagship, who earned a 12-1 quote from William Hill for the Champion Chase at Cheltenham. The seven-year-old was well ridden by Richard Dunwoody, who gained the ride when Nicholson's stable

Nap: VAVASIR
(1.30 Fontwell Park)

Next best: Coonawara
(2.30 Fontwell Park)

jockey, Adrian Maguire, chose fourth-placed Waterloo Boy.

Maguire enjoyed better fortune when Moorcroft Boy revelled in the testing ground for a convincing victory in the Warwick National Chase, in which Chatam and King's Curate, the Martin Pipe-trained pair, made encouraging reappearances after long absences to finish second and fourth respectively. Moorcroft Boy is 14-1 favourite for the Grand National with Corals, who offer 25-1 about King's Curate for the same race.

Maguire had earlier been fortunate to escape a riding ban for his use of the whip when Ramstar failed by a short head to land the Westminster-Motor Taxi Insurance Novices' Chase, although his actions are to be reviewed by Anthony Mildmay-White, the chairman of the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee.

With his competitor's instinct doubtless roused by Dunwoody's close attentions on the eventual winner, Castle Diamond, Maguire rode an infinitely more vigorous finish than he had when winning last month's King George VI Chase at Kempton on Barton Bank, for which he was stood down for two days.

A generous assessment is that Maguire gave 12 serious cracks of the whip to the game Ramstar. While that, in itself, does not constitute an automatic breach of the whip instruction, H9, it again calls into question the consistency of local stewards in the light of Maguire's Kempton ban.

David Pipe, the Jockey Club spokesman, said yesterday: "Anthony is concerned that there may have been an element of inconsistency in the application of the whip rule and has asked for a transcript of the stewards' enquiry following the race and all films of the finish. He is keen to help stewards in their understanding of the rule."

No action was taken after the stewards had interviewed Maguire, who explained that he had struck his mount fewer times than had appeared the case on video.

ED BYRNE



Moorcroft Boy and Maguire storm clear at Warwick

Forte to support Arc

FORTE, the hotels group, is expected to announce later this week it has resumed sponsorship of the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (Julian Muscat writes). Forte takes over from Ciga, who relinquished its interest last year after six years of sponsorship that has seen the Arc weekend develop into the premier racing festival in Europe.

However, Forte, unlike Ciga, will not be supporting the whole weekend. Its interest, it is understood, will be confined to the Arc, as it was when it last sponsored the race under the Trusthouse Forte banner in 1987. Details of the Societe d'Encouragement's plans for the remainder of the festival are expected to be announced shortly.

Ciga, the Aga Khan's hotels conglomerate, was forced to withdraw after it ran into financial difficulties.

Loss of Chantilly would be price of financial gains

JULIAN MUSCAT



Racing commentary

The potential closure of Chantilly racecourse, home to the Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby) and Prix de Diane (French Oaks), was greeted with an air of disbelief by the British racing community when the news was announced at the weekend. The imminent decision, to be announced after a meeting of France's equivalent to the British Horseracing Board on Wednesday, smacks to us of the demise we generally perceive of French racing.

Already, opponents of Tote monopolies, as preached by France, have used the evidence against those in favour of a similar "utopia" existing in Britain. "Imagine the catastrophe of Newmarket racecourse closing down," one of them recently suggested. It would indeed be a catastrophe. However, the proposed closure of Chantilly — if that venue is, in fact, selected at Wednesday's meeting — is nothing like as serious. It has been on the cards for some time.

Chantilly stages only six days' racing each year. Its 50-year-old stands have been neglected to the extent that investment in excess of £7 million is necessary for them to pass official safety regulations. Much to the detriment of the executive's efforts to promote the two classics, crowds in excess of 8,000 make for an unbearably claustrophobic atmosphere.

Historically too, Chantilly's classics are not nearly as significant of those of Epsom. The Prix du Jockey-Club has been open to horses trained outside France for less than 50 years. Only recently has its prestige usurped that of the Grand Prix de Paris, a 15-furlong race at Longchamp until its distance was sadly reduced to ten furlongs five years ago.

What has prompted the threat of closure is the closer links GIE Galop, the new French racing authority, has developed with the government, which, like our own, has recognised the importance of French racing as a contributor to its coffers. Consequently, the government agreed in December to make a significant one-off payment to racing in exchange for substantial savings on an unwieldy administration budget.

Racing in Paris has been run by four different associations, each with their own buildings, staff and often counter-productive policies. The influence of the four associations has now been curbed. They are all represented on GIE, which has, as its chairman, an ambitious government official in Pierre Charon to oversee the promised economies. Staff have been laid off, costs cut and more efficient business practices introduced, but this has not been, and was never expected to be, enough to prevent the closure of one or even two racecourses.

The view of both the government and racing is that there are too many racecourses in the Paris area. Among them, Longchamp is the jewel, Evry is only 20 years old and Maisons-Laffitte, for the often appalling state of the ground, incorporates a training centre which would be threatened by closure of the racecourse. The closure of Saint-Cloud would pass unlamented, but a sale would yield next to nothing as the land is protected from development. Hence Chantilly's position at the top of the list.

As a result of government aid, the French racing authorities have increased the size of owners' and breeders' premiums to the direct benefit of the industry. Whereas Britain gives away £500,000 in breeders' premiums annually, France gives away more than £20 million. This huge incentive to breed and race horses in France comes on top of prize-money amounting to £77 million, compared with Britain's £20.6 million in 1992.

The French racing industry believes the sacrifice of one race track is more than worth the increased financial benefits for owners and breeders based there. While a Tote monopoly largely facilitates such payments, the rationalisation of its Paris-based racecourses has made the cake that much more inviting.

FONTWELL

THUNDERER

1.30 Sunbeam Talbot
2.00 Peacock Feather
2.30 Coonawara
3.00 Yellow Corn
3.30 City Kid
4.00 KARAR (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.00 KARAR.

GOING: HEAVY (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.30 HOUGHTON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,504: 3m 2f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 3-104FP SUNBEAM TALBOT 21 (D,C,S) (Mrs R Lagoutte) A Jones 13-11-10 S Bush (5) 90
2 3025-02 VAVASIR 14 (G) (R Cowell) P Hobbs 8-11-0 S Mulcaire (7) 94
3 14/00P ROSTARY 14 (B,F,S) (P Wildsmith) P Wildsmith 11-11-0 G Cosgrave (7) –
4 323P3- HALF BROTHER 231 (G,S) (P. Bowen) S Dow 12-10-13 T McCarthy (7) 90
5 12-4P64 SAM SHORROCK 34 (B,D,G,S) (K Ogden) G Thorner 12-10-5 G Johnson Houghton (5) 92
6 38P-1034 LEABAUME 14 (S) (G Greenwood) T Casey 12-10-5 Mr S Hogan (7) –
7 35-1403 UNDER OFFER 15 (B,G,S) (Miss S Douglas-Pennant) J King 12-10-1 C Hancock (7) 95
8 2P23/5/ CLONROCHE GAZETTE 684 (S) (Miss D Baker) Miss D Baker 14-10-0 Miss S Wallis (7) –

Long handicap: Clonroche Gazette 9-10.

BETTING: 11-4 Vavasir, 7-2 Sam Shorrock, 5-1 Leabaume, 6-1 Sunbeam Talbot, 7-1 Half Brother, 12-1 Clonroche Gazette, Under Offer, 20-1 Rostary.

1993: WHAT A TO DO 9-9-10 Mr T Jarvis (13-2) T Forster 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

SUNBEAM TALBOT 11l 4th of 14 to Poolman's Gift in a handicap chase at Towcester (2m 5f, soft). VAVASIR 7l 2nd of 7 to The Glover in a novice chase at Windsor (2m 5f, soft). HALF BROTHER 22l 3rd of 4 to Docklands Express in an amateur riders' chase at Folkestone (2m 5f 110yd, soft).

SAM SHORROCK 26l 6th of 9 to Carbisdale in a handicap chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to firm). LEABAUME 22½l 4th of 9 to Moorcroft Boy in a handicap chase at Cheltenham (4m 1f, soft). UNDER OFFER 90l 3rd of 8 to Strazdel Leader in a handicap chase at Nottingham (3m 3f 110yd, soft). Selection: VAVASIR

2.00 SHOPWYKE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,707: 2m 2f) (6 runners)

1 1-5601P ALICE'S MIRROR 34 (V,CD,G,S) (T McGovern) T McGovern 5-12-0 W McFarland 95
2 3-P34F1 PEACOCK FEATHER 18 (CD,S) (Mrs J Smith) K Burke 8-11-13 M A Fitzgerald (3) –
3 506/1-P2 MILLY BLACK 18 (D,S) (L Snook) L Snook 6-11-9 D Gallagher 90
4 4050 ONE MORE POUND 34 (V) (R Whitaker) M Dixon 4-11-4 D Murphy 96
5 06504-0 CLEAR COMEDY 95 (A Dent) R Frost 6-10-7 J Frost 87
6 PP6- MOYNISHA HOUSE 401 (P Byrne) B Curley 5-10-0 E Murphy –

Long handicap: Moynisha House 9-13.

BETTING: 2-1 Peacock Feather, 3-1 Milly Black, 4-1 Alice's Mirror, 7-1 Moynisha House, 8-1 One More Pound, 20-1 Clear Comedy

1993: MECADO 6-10-4 M Hoad (9-1) F Yardley 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

ALICE'S MIRROR beat Fuscy Lady 5l in a 10-runner selling handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft). PEACOCK FEATHER beat MILLY BLACK 4½ better off) 15l in a 10-runner selling hurdle over course and distance (heavy). MILLY BLACK beat Tudor Da Samba neck in a 12-runner selling novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, soft) with CLEAR COMEDY (16lb better off) 30l 6th. ONE MORE POUND 17½l 5th of 9 to Spring Meadow in a novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft). CLEAR COMEDY 26½l 4th of 11 to Tudor Da Samba in a selling novice hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to firm). Selection: PEACOCK FEATHER

2.30 PETER DUNCANSON MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY
(Novices chase: £3,623: 2m 3f) (6 runners)

1 1111-11 COONAWARA 30 (G,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 8-12-0 B Powell (3) –
2 PPF-0 BALLINAMOE 18 (Mrs M Graves) R Buckler 9-11-4 W Marston –
3 10-03FP FEARSOME 17 (S) (Mrs J Smith) K Burke 8-11-4 M A Fitzgerald 92
4 09/204 MICKSLINE 17 (M Pinto) J Gifford 8-11-4 D Murphy –
5 21-2023 WINGS OF FREEDOM 14 (V,F) (American Pulsebeats) J Jenkins 6-11-4 R Dunwoody 98
6 242-252 RUSSINSKY 19 (Mrs E Clark) G Bowary 7-10-13 R J Beggan 76

BETTING: 4-5 Coonawara, 11-4 Wings Of Freedom, 9-2 Russinsky, 10-1 Micksline, 25-1 Ballinamoe, Fearsome.

1993: RICHVILLE 7-11-4 A Tory (11-2) K Bailey 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

COONAWARA beat Country Lad 5l in a 5-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy). Previously beat Lackendara 12l in a 4-runner novice chase at Kempton (2m, good). FEARSOME 28l 3rd of 8 to Muckalim in a novice chase at Nottingham (2m 5f, good to soft). WINGS OF FREEDOM 11½l 3rd of 5 to Earls Summit in a novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft). RUSSINSKY, 13½l 2nd to Mendita in a novice chase at Southwell (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). Selection: COONAWARA (nap)

3.00 HOECHST PANACUR EBF MARES NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,553: 2m 2f) (6 runners)

1 80/213 PRINCESS HOTPOT 55 (BF,S) (S Bastier) Miss H Knight 6-11-5 J McCarthy (5) –
2 4 COUNTRY STORE 44 (A Jones) A Jones 5-10-12 W McFarland 79
3 0/66 DREAMLINE 18 (R Wheeler) M Muggeridge 5-10-12 M P Fitzgerald (7) –
4 5-0 FORT RANK 28 (P Tylor) R Frost 7-10-12 J Frost 77
5 03004 MAKING TIME 32 (Town and Country Tyre Ltd) S Humphrey 7-10-12 B Powell 82
6 F YELLOW CORN 90 (Mrs R Howell) D Gressell 5-10-12 J Railton –

BETTING: 7-4 Princess Hotpot, 5-2 Country Store, 9-2 Yellow Corn, 10-1 Making Time, 14-1 Dreamline, 16-1 Fort Rank.

1993: FANTASY WORLD 7-10-12 D J Murphy (5-1) J Gifford 17 ran

FORM FOCUS

PRINCESS HOTPOT 5½l 3rd of 8 to Carlingford Lakes in a novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Previously beat Golden Spider 4l in a 13-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good). COUNTRY STORE 15½l 4th of 14 to Tothewoods

In a novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft) DREAMLINE 13½l 6th of 21 to Bastion in a National Hunt flat race at Warwick (2m, heavy). MAKING TIME 17l 4th of 11 to Carpet Slippers in a novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, heavy). Selection: PRINCESS HOTPOT

3.30 SELSEY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,508: 2m 2f) (5 runners)

1 131-241 CITY KID 18 (C,B,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 9-12-0 J J Brown (7) 96
2 P225-31 RADICAL REQUEST 21 (G,S) (Nordic Winds & Co) K Burke 11-10-11 M A Fitzgerald 93
3 26PRR6 RUNNING SANDS 30 (S) (Mrs S Wiles) R Rowe 10-10-5 R Dunwoody 93
4 53U141/3 UNIQUE NEW YORK 43 (V,S,S) (Miss S Jarmuch) S Woodman 11-10-2 Guy Lewis (7) –
5 8444-53 MASTER COMEDY 18 (S,CD,F,S) (Miss J Wilkinson) Miss L Rowe 10-10-1 M Williamson 87

BETTING: 7-4 City Kid, 5-2 Radical Request, 4-1 Unique New York, 9-2 Master Comedy, 16-1 Running Sands.

1993: FLASHTHECASH 7-10-1 A Maguire (3-1) E Balding 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

CITY KID beat Congregation 11½l in handicap chase here (2m 3f, heavy) with MASTER COMEDY (12lb better off) over 30 lengths 3rd. Earlier 11 2nd of 14 to Poolman's Path in a handicap chase at Towcester (2m 5f, good). RADICAL REQUEST beat Mo Ishi Do 6l in a 4-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon

(2m 4f 110yd, soft). RUNNING SANDS 23½l 5th of 8 to Easy Buck in grade II Noel Novices Chase at Ascot (2m 3f 110yd, good to soft). UNIQUE NEW YORK 18l 3rd of 6 to Richville in a handicap chase over course and distance (good). Selection: CITY KID

4.00 MIDDLETON NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,543: 2m 2f) (7 runners)

1 02 KARAR 20 (Mrs M Sampson) R Rowe 10-12 N Williamson (3) –
2 2 MARIUS 15 (Mrs L Simpson) J Gifford 10-12 D Murphy 91
3 06 RABAZZO 46 (S Pedersen) K Cunningham-Brown 10-12 M A Fitzgerald –
4 53 SILVER STANDARD 14 (S Legg) T Forster 10-12 B Powell 74
5 8 FATHER'S JOY 48 (G Redford) R Rowe 10-7 N Davies –
6 MILLMOUNT 167F (V) (Eastridge Racing) T McGovern 10-7 W McFarland –
7 06 ROWLANDSONS GOLD 20 (Rowlandsons Ltd) M Channon 10-7 Lorna Vincent 59

BETTING: 5-4 Karar, 9-4 Marius, 9-2 Silver Standard, 12-1 Rowlandsons Gold, 14-1 Father's Joy, Millmount, 20-1 Rabazzo.

1993: ROC COLOR 4-10-12 G Bradley (7-2) C Brooks 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

KARAR neck 2nd of 9 to Wings Cove in a novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5l, good to soft) with ROWLANDSONS GOLD 46½l 6th. MARIUS 6l 2nd of 12 to Winter Forest in a novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, soft). RABAZZO 37l 6th of 7 to My Ballyboy in a novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good). SILVER STANDARD just over 5 lengths 3rd of 9 to Love You Madly in a novice hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, heavy). MILLMOUNT placed in Roscommon handicap on Flat (2m, yielding). Selection: KARAR

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%
M Channon	3	9	33.3
P Hobbs	15	49	30.6
Miss H Knight	5	18	27.8
T Forster	3	11	27.3
J Gifford	24	115	20.9
D Gilchrist	7	42	16.7

JOCKEYS	Wins	Runs	%
J McCarthy	3	9	33.3
Lorna Vincent	3	12	25.0
J Frost	17	69	24.6
D Murphy	11	64	17.2
N Williamson	3	18	16.7
W McFarland	4	25	16.0

Party Politics injured

PARTY Politics, the 1992 Grand National winner, has had another setback and will miss the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock on Saturday. He was pulled out of last month's Welsh National because of an injury on the morning of the race and now has a bruised foot. He will be out of action until next month. Nick Gaselee, his trainer, said: "He may not run until the Greenalls Gold Cup before Aintree."

Earl Boon initiates treble for Barber

POINT-TO-POINT
BY BRIAN BEEL

RICHARD Barber, who in recent years has produced such talented performers as Rushing Wild and See More Indians from his Seaborough yard, took five of his charges to the Army point-to-point on Saturday and won with three.

Jane Brackenbury rode two of the winners, the first on Earl Boon in a division of the maiden. Brief Encounter completed her double in the confined. Between these races Polly Curling, on Rural Outfit, beat her rival, Alison Dare, into second place in the ladies'.

Luck was out, however, for Barber's stable rider, Peter King. He was second on the odds-on favourite, Lewesdon Hill, in division two of the maiden, and pulled up on Mr Diplomatic in a high-class Land Rover qualifier won by Nearly Splendid.

Carlisle's fixture depends on a 7.15am inspection. The course is frozen in parts and, with frost forecast, prospects are poor.

Tom Greed was aboard Nearly Splendid, who stayed on strongly and easily held Over The Edge and Nick The Brief.

The rider of the second horse, Simon Sporborg, had previously been beaten into second place in the Army race, by Chris Marrioti on Scrumpy Country. However, Sporborg's brother, Willie, fared better at the Easton Harriers on Mister Main Man. He was the impressive winner of the maiden in a time faster than that of Namoos (Tim McCarthy) in the open.

Even more impressive, however, was Raglan Road in the ladies' under Alexandra Embiricos. He was pushed clear four out and went on to win by 15 lengths from Richard Hunt and Fort Hall. The Aintree Foxhunters' is now in his sights.

ARMY (Larkhill): Saddle Club: 1, Scrumpy Country (C Mesnard, 2-1 jt fav). 2, Roars Of Applause; 3, Last Extravagance 7 ran. Open mdn (Div I): 1, Earl Boon (Miss J Brackenbury, 3-1 fav); 2, Argalops; 3, Copper Rose Hill. 10 ran. Open mdn (Div II): 1, Tuffnut George (A Phillips, 4-1); 2, Lewesdon Hill; 3, Balance. 10 ran. Ladies. 1, Rural Outfit (Miss P Curling, 2-1); 2, Stephens Pet; 3, Special. 10 ran. Land Rover Open: 1, Nearly Splendid (T Greed, 10-1); 2, Over The Edge; 3, Nick The Brief. 23 ran. Confined: 1, Brief Encounter (Miss J Brackenbury, 7-4); 2, Master Christier; 3, Mangrove. 13 ran.

EASTON HARRIERS (Higham): Hunt: 1, Wishno (P Taxano, Evens fav); 2, North Down Boy; 3, Laird Of Balmoral. 7 ran. Confined: 1, John O'Dee (I Marsh, 3-1 fav); 2, Walkers Hill; 3, Sound Of Jura. 11 ran. Open: 1, Namoos (T McCarthy, 5-2); 2, Another Troup; 3, Antrim County. 7 ran. Ladies: 1, Raglan Road (Miss A Embiricos, 6-4 fav); 2, Richard Hunt; 3, Fort Hall. 8 ran. Rest: 1, No Fizz (P Bull, 10-1); 2, Couture Cuisiny; 3, The Right Kind. 12 ran. Mdn: 1, Mister Main Man (W Sporborg, 4-5 fav); 2, Loyal Note; 3, Bear's Fight. 10 ran.

CARLISLE

THUNDERER

12.40 Pakenham. 1.10 Gallateen. 1.40 Astan. 2.10 Arthur's Minstrel. 2.40 The Whirlie Weevil. 3.10 Glamot. 3.40 It's The Pits.

GOING: HEAVY (7.15AM INSPECTION) SIS

12.40 MILTON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: £2,093: 2m 4f 110yd) (11 runners)

101 P551 NORTHERN SQUIRE 18 (CD,S) J Jefferson 6-11-5 P Williams (5) –
102 0-00 BALISTEROS 72 T Tate 5-10-12 W Fry (7) 80
103 4-35 BARNEY RUBBLE 18 D Watters 9-10-12 A Maguire 88
104 P BEN RHYDDING 128 W Kemp 7-10-12 L Wyer –
105 00 LOWLY BUBBLY 19 M Hammond 6-10-12 C Grant –
106 01/0 MARKS REPRIMI 4 (G) E Caine 10-10-12 Mr R Hale (5) –
107 00/44 HAWARK 14 L Lungo 5-10-12 T Reed 95
108 2P-P PARKENHAM 40 G Richards 5-10-12 N Doughty 98
109 STOP THE WALLER M Barnes 5-10-12 A Dobbin –
110 63P5 STRONG DEEL 19 W Reed 5-10-12 B Storey 91
111 30 BLANDALANE LADY 38 (BF) J J O'Neill 5-10-7 M Dwyer –

9-4 Northern Squire, 7-2 Barney Rubble, 9-2 Blandalane Lady, 5-1 others.

1.10 E.B.F. HADRIAN'S WALL NOVICES CHASE
(£3,444: 2m 4f 110yd) (13)

201 P144 COUNTORUS 38 (G) J Johnson 8-11-5 A Maguire –
202 P- DASTARDLY DALE 32 J Adam 8-11-5 R Garritty –
203 2-FP DUHALLOW LODGE 38 (BF,G,S) Mrs S Smith 7-11-5 Richard Guest 96
204 3FP FRONT LINE 14 J J O'Neill 7-11-5 M Dwyer 77
205 31-2 GALLATEEN 14 (F,G,S) G Richards 6-11-5 N Doughty –
206 0P35 HUNTING COUNTRY 17 J J O'Neill 10-11-5 C Grant 91
207 -522 KILDONNEY HILL 107 J J O'Neill 8-11-5 P Niven 80
208 0 MAN OF FASHION 100 G Moore 8-11-5 N Bentley (3) –
209 50P- MAYOR OF LISCARROL 231 M Smith 9-11-5 Mr S Brisby –
210 5P7/ MERRYDALE FARM 747 M Meaghar 9-11-5 B Storey –
211 5400 SEON 28 (F,S,S) W Bentley 8-11-5 L Wyer –
212 0-UU DUCHESS OF TUBBER 18 R Fisher 6-11-0 A Thornton (3) –
213 0665 HERE COMES TIBBY 18 (S) W Reed 7-11-0 T Reed –

9-4 Front Line, 7-2 Duhallow Lodge, 4-1 Kildonney Hill, 8-1 Seon, 12-1 others.

1.40 NAWORTH NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,268: 2m 1f) (17)

301 14-2 ASLAN 18 (BF,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-5 M Dwyer (3) –
302 1-45 CLEEVALIN 28 (G) J J O'Neill 6-11-5 P Niven 94
303 0-00 CROFTON LAKE 14 J Dixon 6-11-5 L O'Hara –
304 00 DERWENT LAD 14 M Barnes 5-11-5 A Dobbin –
305 GINETRICK M Dods 5-11-5 T Reed –
306 PETER D Whillans 5-11-5 A Maguire –
307 0 PRECIOUS HENRY 97 Mrs A Swinbank 5-11-5 C Grant –
308 PG RHYMING THOMAS 32 J Adam 6-11-5 R Garritty –
309 -534 TREWERTHAN 38 Mrs S Austin 5-11-5 D Wilkinson 98
310 6P4 LITTLE BROMLEY 338 A Eddaoli 7-11-0 Mr R Hale (5) –
311 FP26 NIDIFA 14 G Richards 6-11-0 N Doughty 98
312 09PY WESAYEM 756 T Cuthbert 7-11-0 Carol Cuthbert (7) –
313 2140 ON GOLDEN POND 39 (D,G) G Moore 4-10-9 J Callaghan 94
314 F BUZZ-B-BABE 62F B Ellison 4-10-7 L Wyer –
315 JOCKS JOKER 3F J H Wilson 4-10-7 Mrs G Rees –
316 4 VOLUNTEER POINT 18 Mrs S Brantall 4-10-7 J Burke (5) 87
317 F WEAVER GEORGE 82 N Chamberlain 4-10-7 J Supple (5) –

9-4 Aslan, 3-1 Nida, 7-2 Cleevalin, 9-2 Trewerthan, 5-1 others.

2.10 HAYTON HANDICAP CHASE (£7,025: 3m 4f) (12)

401 -011/ DIRECT 14 (C,S) J Edwards 11-11-7 P Niven 95
402 2-25 SPIDONI WIND 45 (C,F,S,S) M Hammond 11-11-6 G Grant 95
403 2-71 TARTAN TYRANT 18 (C,B,S) G Richards 8-11-1 N Doughty 95
404 -F45 POLAR REGION 21 (C,D,F,S,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-10-13 M Dwyer 85
405 -463 HOTPLATE 18 (C,D,S,S) G Richards 11-10-9 B Harding (7) 87
406 F532 OVER THE DEEL 18 (F,S,S) J Johnson 9-10-7 A Maguire 91
407 R211 ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 19 (F,G,S) P Cheesbrough 7-10-4 L Wyer –
408 2P5P BOREEN QWEEN 18 (C,S,S) J J O'Neill 10-10-3 T Reed 87
409 5543 FORTH AND TAY 5 (C,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 12-10-0 P Williams (5) 92
410 -846 CAROUSEL ROCKET 16 (C,F,S,S) M Hammond 11-10-0 D Bentley (5) 92
411 2522 TRUELY ROYAL 17 (BF,S) J Charlton 10-10-0 B Storey 87
412 6301 VIVA BELLA 18 (C,S) Mrs S Brantall 7-10-0 Mr D Parker (7) 94

9-4 Tartan Tyrant, 11-4 Direct, 7-2 Polar Region, 9-2 Hotplate, 5-1 others.

2.40 MILTON NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: £2,093: 2m 4f 110yd) (10)

501 ANOTHER SHADOW J Haldane 7-10-12 A Dobbin –
502 43-2 BERVIE HOUSE 93 Mrs M Beveley 6-10-12 P Niven (3) –
503 0-0 BOWLANDS HUSSELF 28 C Parker 6-10-12 B Storey –
504 BRAVE AND TENDER J Johnson 5-10-12 A Maguire –
505 60 HIP HOP 28 Mrs S Brantall 5-10-12 J Burke (5) 97
506 0 PLUM DUFF 42 F Watson 7-10-12 C Grant –
507 P0 RUSTY BLADE 18 S Leadbetter 5-10-12 R Hodge –
508 000 THE PIPE FITTER 18 J J O'Neill 5-10-12 M Dwyer –
509 -004 JOYFUL IMP 39 J Dixon 7-10-7 Mr R Hale (5) 89
510 -530 THE WHIRLIE WEEVIL 14 G Richards 6-10-7 B Harding (7) 86

7-4 Bervie House, 3-1 Joyful Imp, 4-1 The Whirlie Weevil, 7-1 others.

3.10 LANERCOST HANDICAP CHASE (£3,173: 2m) (4)

601 1132 GOOD FOR A LAUGH 17 (D,S,S) Mrs S Brantall 10-12-0 J Burke (5) –
602 2FB- STRONG APPROACH 229 (CD,S) J Charlton 9-11-12 B Storey 95
603 0114 GLAMOT 19 (CD,F,S,S) J Johnson 6-11-7 A Maguire 97
604 5124 POSITIVE ACTION 5 (D,F,S,S) M Barnes 8-10-9 A Dobbin 97

6-4 Glamot, 9-4 Good For A Laugh, 7-2 Positive Action, 5-1 Steag Approach.

3.40 BRAMPTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,448: 2m 1f) (7)

1 110- WARDOT 163F (S) Mrs M Beveley 5-12-0 P Niven 90
2 0633 GYMCRAK STARDOM 17 (S,S) G Holmes 8-11-9 L Wyer 92
3 -222 BELLTON 19 (F,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-11-9 M Dwyer 91
4 0201 SWEET CITY 18 (CD,S) G Richards 9-10-6 Mr R Hale (5) 85
5 1-13 IT'S THE PITS 32 (G,S) L Lungo 7-10-2 F Perrett (5) 89
6 -243 PALACEGATE KING 19 (S) A Watkins 5-10-1 A Maguire 95
7 P-0P DUTCH BLUES 41 (S) Mrs S Austin 7-10-0 D Wilkinson 89

3-1 It's The Pits, 7-2 Gymcrak Stardom, 9-2 Belton, 5-1 Sweet City, 6-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: W Bentley, 4 winners from 10 runners, 40.0%, J Jefferson, 6 from 27, 29.6%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 4 from 15, 26.7%, J Edwards, 4 from 16, 25.0%; Mrs M Beveley, 10 from 43, 23.3%, J Johnson, 6 from 29, 20.7%.

JOCKEYS: A Maguire, 4 winners from 8 rides, 50.0%, P Niven, 21 from 82, 25.6%; N Doughty, 19 from 81, 23.5%; N Bentley, 3 from 13, 23.1%, L Wyer, 8 from 38, 22.2%, M Dwyer, 13 from 63, 20.6%.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.20 Well And Truly. 1.50 Hersheba. 2.20 Samson-Agonistes. 2.50 Wild Ace. 3.20 Wordsmith. 3.50 Lochore.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 5F-1M 100YD, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.20 DUDLEY HANDICAP
(£2,243: 1m 6f 166yd) (12 runners)

1 03-4 WELL AND TRULY 10 (BF,G) B McMahon 7-9-10 T Quinn 7
2 00-3 PREMIER DANCE 10 (F,G) D Haydn Jones 7-9-10 J Williams 12
3 450- ARAR 93 (F) A Potts 5-9-9 N Adams 8
4 0/0/ SECRET SUMMIT 63J (V) A Forbes 8-9-8 T Wall 11
5 40-4 CARROLLS MARC 9 (C,F,G) P Hastara 5-9-7 J Weaver 4
6 0/0- ACROW LINE 213 (F) D Burchell 9-9-6 R Price 1
7 325- VIAGGIO 17J (V) A Forbes 6-9-6 S D Williams 5
8 234- MOONSHINE DANCER 47J Mrs M Reveley 4-9-5 Darren Morton (5) 3
9 /34- LITTLE BIG 48J (C,F,G) C Broad 7-9-5 M Wigham 6
10 035/ GOLDEN MADJAMBO 61J F Jordan 8-9-4 A Clark 2
11 0U-2 NOBLE MEASURE 10 (V) S Bowring 4-9-1 G Strange (7) 9
12 005- DON'T FORGET MARIE 45J (S) A Bailey 4-9-1 A Mackay 10

4-1 Moonshine Dancer, 9-2 Well And Truly, 5-1 Carrolls Marc, Noble Measure, 6-1 Premier Dance, Don't Forget Marie, 8-1 Little Big, 14-1 others.

1.50 TIPTON HANDICAP (£2,781: 7f) (12)

1 0-02 EASTLEIGH 9 (D,E,S) R Hollinshead 5-10-0 L Dettori 4
2 00/0 CROWN'S COURAGE 9 (F,G,S) E Alston 8-9-12 S Knott (7) 1
3 000- ESTHAL 17 (C,S) R Hodges 4-9-12 M Hills 9
4 00-4 BOLD STREET 9 (D,G,S) A Bailey 4-9-10 S Whitworth 8
5 100- WATERLORD 68 (D,S) D Nicholls 4-9-9 Alex Greaves 2
6 16F- DAM CERTAIN 49 (D,F,S) R Ingram 5-9-8 Dale Gibson 5
7 5-68 HERSHEBAR 3 (B,G) S Bowring 4-9-7 G Strange (7) 3
8 50-5 FIRST GOLD 14 (F,S) J Wharton 5-9-7 J Quinn 10
9 40-2 QUINZI MARTIN 14 (V,D,G) D Haydn Jones 5-9-4 J Williams 7
10 500- LARN FORT 97 (S,S) C Fairhurst 4-9-4 J Fanning 6
11 00-1 CELESTIAL CHOIR 7 (CD,G) J Eyre 4-9-2 J Tate (5) 11
12 500- AIR COMMAND 160 (S) D Burchell 4-9-1 R Price 12

5-2 Celestial Choir, 4-1 Quinzi Martin, Eastleigh, 11-2 Bold Street, 10-1 First Gold, Hersheber, 12-1 Dam Certain, 14-1 others.

2.20 BILSTON CLAIMING STAKES
(£3,028: 5f) (13)

1 34-4 ANOTHER EPISODE 14 (D,F,S,S) J Berry 5-9-9 P Roberts (7) 10
2 0-12 SAMSON-AGONISTES 7 (CD,F,S,S) P Evans 8-9-9 A Clark 13
3 0-00 OPEN AGENDA 7 K White 5-9-1 N Varley (7) 12
4 060- ARC LAMP 92 (CD,F,S) J Glover 8-8-13 J Quinn 7
5 05-0 BRISAS 14 (V,D,F,S) C Fairhurst 7-8-13 J Fanning 8
6 0-00 FARNDALE 7 B Mactgan 7-8-13 G Bardwell 11
7 /50- SAY SUMPAK 136 Mrs V Aconley 4-8-13 M Wigham 4
8 3-30 SIMMIE'S SPECIAL 7 (D,BF,G,S) R Hollinshead 6-8-12 L Dettori 9
9 000- OZZARD 32

Forest's late challenge wears down Tranmere

Tranmere Rovers 1
Nottingham Forest 2

BY PETER BALL

NOTTINGHAM Forest march on. Two goals in the last ten minutes brought them a hard-earned victory at Prenton Park yesterday to extend their unbeaten run to 14 games. This seventh away win in eight attempts takes them back into the play-off places for the first time since September.

"We've got ourselves into a challenging position with 21 games left," Frank Clark, the Forest manager, said. "It was good to win without Stan Collymore because the media have been giving us a one-man team label, so the lads will be pleased we proved we can win without him."

The result was hard on Tranmere, who had resisted defiantly for so long in spite of losing both their central defenders by the interval.

In the second half their rearranged defence had come under increasing pressure as Forest pushed forward, but with the referee, Alan Dawson, turning down two convincing appeals for a penalty, it looked for a long time as if they would hold out.

Colin Cooper had other ideas. Without Collymore, who has a hamstring injury, Forest had produced little direct threat to Nixon, the Tranmere goalkeeper, for all their pressure, but Cooper has made a habit of scoring vital late goals in recent weeks, and with ten minutes remaining, he stole up unnoticed to accept Phillips's pass and beat Nixon.

That ignited the Forest fire, and they pressed forward with conviction for the winner as the heavy pitch took its toll on tired limbs. The second came with four minutes left as Glover pulled Black's deep cross back from the by-line for Gemmill to score.

Until Cooper's intervention, the game had seemed set to develop into a tale of three penalties, one given and two refused. Tranmere had looked the more positive side in the first half, creating a series of problems for the Forest defence.

But for all the promise of their attacks, it took a penalty to give them the lead on the half-hour as Nevin skipped round Crossley and was sent crashing. Aldridge scored the resulting spot kick to claim his thirteenth goal of the season after missing four games.

By then Tranmere had lost Higgins, Glover catching him with a late tackle. By the interval Hughes was limping heavily after a tackle on Glover and he, too, did not return thereafter. Tranmere reorganised, with Mungall and Martindale operating as a makeshift central defence, while Malkin dropped deeper into midfield to leave Aldridge on his own at the front.

Defensively Tranmere did not look convincing but on the break they still for some time succeeded in creating the better chances, Brannan's shot was deflected wide by Cooper and when Nevin released Malkin with a perfect pass the tall forward shot wastefully against Crossley's legs.

By then Forest might have had their two penalties as Pearce went down under McGreal's tackle and Nixon clipped Gemmill's foot, but the tide was running increasingly with the red shirts and as Tranmere tired Forest claimed the victory.

TRANMERE ROVERS (4-4-2): E Nixon — S Mungall, D Higgins (sub: J McGreal, 32min), M Hughes (sub: D Martindale, 45), I Nolan — J Morrissey, G Brannan, K Irons, P Nevin — J Aldridge, C Malkin.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-1-4-1): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — D Phillips — S Stone (sub: G Bull, 78), N Webb, S Gemmill, I Wosin (sub: K Black, 45) — L Glover.
Referee: A Dawson.


MARC ASPLAND

A young Shrewsbury Town supporter finds the crowd's enthusiastic reaction to a 3-0 lead for his team against Chester City at Gay Meadow far too overwhelming

Uncomplaining Davies takes care of basics

Oliver Holt finds traditional values alive and kicking at Shrewsbury's Gay Meadow

They poured out of the exit cheering and chanting, and swarmed across the English Bridge over the River Severn towards the lights of the town. It is football's frontier out here, but the celebrations of the Shrewsbury Town fans soon drowned out the rejoicing of Welsh rugby supporters clustered in the pubs.

Back at the ground, Graham Barrow, the Chester City manager, unwittingly added his own contribution to the big issue. "We've got to go back to basics after that," he said, his sense of footballing values outraged because the majority of the crowd had been glad to be at Gay Meadow.

They had been glad to see their team trounce its Endsleigh Insurance League third division promotion rivals, happy that the victory was achieved with style and determination and some fine play from a vibrant forward line — but content, too, to spectate at a stadium that retains the charm and character that is such an important ingredient of the football experience.

It is impossible not to feel a tinge of regret when people talk of redeveloping the ground. The trees that tower over part of the terraces may well have to go; the view of the imposing buildings high on the opposite bank of the river will be lost. Eighty years ago, the poems of Edward Thomas mourned the passing of rural England and more recently Nick Hornby, in his best-selling book, *Fever Pitch*, bemoaned the impending disappearance of much that is best about English stadiums. At Gay Meadow, one is met with the melancholy of both sentiments. It is heightened, perversely, by the warmth that courses through the club.

Even the make-up of the team reinforced the feeling that everything was as it should be. Shrewsbury played with not one but two old-fashioned 'centre forwards, two wingers, one skilful midfield player, one holding player and four defenders, all adept at attacking.

On Saturday, the enduring class of Wayne Clarke, the former Wolverhampton Wanderers and Everton striker, combined with the speed and aggression of his partner, Dean Spink, were too much for Chester. Clarke scored the first goal from the penalty spot, when he was nudged in the back as the ball was crossed in, moments after his header had been cleared off the line. His second came after Lynch's surging run. After Leonard had struck a Chester penalty against the bar, Williams completed the demolition, running from deep to thunder home a header.

Fred Davies, who must hold the record for the longest spell as a caretaker manager — he took over at Shrewsbury before the start of the season — fits the bill too.

A playing contemporary of Billy Wright at Wolverhampton in the 1950s, and a habitual deputy of John Bond, his predecessor at Gay Meadow, Davies is an open, courteous man with a sound philosophy. "I think I'm the only person in the club who isn't worried about the caretaker manager thing," he said. "I've got a coaching contract until the end of the season and that is fine by me."

No need for him, or Shrewsbury, to go back to basics. They knew the secret already.

SHREWSBURY TOWN (4-2-4): P Edwards — T Lynch, C Withe, M Williams, D Watson — M Taylor, G Peterson — M Brown, W Clarke, D Spink, M Smith (sub: K Summerfield, 73min).
CHESTER CITY (4-4-2): D Felgate — I Jenkins, M Came, C Greenhall, J Jakub — R Preece (sub: D Fillcroft, 57), D Thompson, C Lightfoot (sub: E Bishop, 45), P Wheeler — S Rimmer, M Leonard.
Referee: A Smith.

Leicester in top spot

LEICESTER City replaced Crystal Palace at the top of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division yesterday when a last-minute goal secured an improbable 2-1 victory over Charlton Athletic at Filbert Street.

Charlton outplayed Brian Little's team for long periods but were twice denied by the woodwork and had two strong penalty appeals turned down. Leicester took the lead eight minutes into the second half. Grayson profiting from a mistake by Salmon, the Charlton goalkeeper, and after Balmer had equalised from an 81st-minute corner. Roberts dived to head the winner from Mills's deep cross, his seventh goal in ten games.

There were three goals on a frosty pitch at Roker Park where Sunderland beat Middlesbrough 2-1. Sunderland took the lead in the 67th minute when Mohan brought Russell down inside the area and Phil Gray converted the penalty. Four minutes later, Howey claimed Sunderland's second, heading home from a corner, before Vickers scored a 75th-minute consolation for Middlesbrough. Six players were booked.

Tough times for Dundee's cosmopolitan band

SCOTTISH COMMENTARY BY KEVIN McCARRA

HARD though they run, disappointment always catches Dundee. On Saturday, they led Rangers until two minutes from time, when Gordon Durie equalised. It is the second time this season they have been deflated by a draw with the champions. Earlier, at Dens Park, Rangers had also scrambled a point.

Dundee will be one of those sides that carry with them into the first division not only a mood of dejection and an overdraft, but also a sense of grievance. They feel that promising moments have merited better results. Instead, Dundee are now ten points from safety in a league which will see three clubs relegated this season.

Failure is generally a matter of concentrated dullness. Not at Dundee. The gabble of languages in their dressing-room suggests that the club may yet decide to appoint an Esperanto-speaking coach. The side can feature a Croat, a Czech, a Pole and a Dane.

Dundee have dwindled since their 1960s days as league winners and European swashbucklers and the booming fortunes of Dundee United have sometimes provoked rashness at Dens Park.

The splurge of exotic, if obscure, signings was perhaps intended as a crash course in greatness. Cosmopolitan names, however, do not ensure continental standards.

Now, Dundee may be preparing themselves for more sober times. Anyone arriving in the city steps straight into a fug of rumours concerning the club's financial position. Malcolm Reid, the vice-chairman, issued the latest batch of denials last week but then went on to extend his support to Jim Duffy, the player-manager.

There is nothing so menacing as a vote of confidence but Reid's endorsement was unusually specific. He insisted that Duffy would remain in the post even if Dundee were relegated.

Duffy's love for the game leaves people half-aghast and half-impressed; he still plays despite warnings that he is hastening the progress of osteo-arthritis in his ruined knee. Five years from now, Duffy could be crippled. In his devotion to football he will not spare even himself.

Duffy appears ideally suited for the slow and vital work Dundee require. He must decide how many of the emigre band are really appropriate to the Scottish game and there are also indigenous talents to be nurtured. In one moment on Saturday Neil McCann, the 19-year-old winger, beat Gary Stevens with bewildering skill. It is Duffy's task now to coax him to consistency. Reid's assurances had better prove sincere. This volatile club and their manager sorely need one another's trust.

Cowdenbeath, the team with the worst home record in British football, won their first match on their own ground in 21 months. Their 1-0 Scottish Cup triumph over Stenhousemuir ended a run of 34 matches stretching back to April 1992. Paul Hunter scored the goal which ended the jinx and earned Cowdenbeath a tie against Morton on January 29.

WEEKEND RESULTS AND TABLES

FA Carling Premiership

A VILLA Richardson 15 Atkinson 43, 68	(2)	3	WEST HAM Allen 30 28,869	(1)	1
EVERTON Ebbrell 4 Cottee 42, 84, 89 (pen) Ablett 71 Beagrie 90	(3)	6	SWINDON Mencur 55 Bodin 61 20,546	(0)	2
LEEDS 31,317	(0)	0	IPSWICH	(0)	0
MAN CITY 25 642	(0)	0	ARSENAL	(0)	0
NORWICH Ekoku 59 19,472	(0)	1	CHELSEA Stein 42	(1)	1
OLDHAM 14,573	(0)	0	LIVERPOOL Dicks 47 Fowler 53 Redknapp 80	(0)	3
SHEFF UTD Scott 18 19,124	(1)	1	BLACKBURN Shearer 38, 64	(1)	2
SOTON Le Tissier 44 (pen)	(1)	1	COVENTRY 12,397	(0)	0
TOTTENHAM 31,343	(0)	0	MAN UTD Hughes 49	(0)	1
WIMBLEDON Ardley 12 Fashanu 42	(2)	2	SHEFF WED Pearce 67 5,536	(0)	1

Yesterday

QPR Penrice 20 15,744	(1)	1	NEWCASTLE Clark 4 Beardsley 63	(1)	2

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Man Utd	26	8	5	0	25	10	10	2	1	28	13	61
2 Blackburn	24	7	3	2	16	8	7	3	2	18	11	48
3 Newcastle	25	7	3	2	23	8	6	3	4	20	15	45
4 Arsenal	25	7	4	1	17	8	5	3	3	12	5	45
5 Leeds	25	8	3	1	24	13	3	7	3	14	13	43
6 Liverpool	25	7	4	2	24	15	4	3	5	16	16	40
7 Norwich	24	7	4	4	8	10	4	4	5	20	17	38
8 Sheff Wed	26	7	5	1	27	16	4	3	6	20	19	37
9 Wimbledon	24	5	5	2	17	12	5	3	5	16	14	32
10 Aston Villa	25	7	5	1	23	15	4	3	6	16	16	35
11 West Ham	26	5	4	4	12	12	4	3	6	10	19	34
12 Wimbledon	24	5	5	4	8	16	3	4	4	11	16	32
13 Coventry	24	4	5	4	11	16	3	4	4	5	15	31
14 Ipswich	24	4	5	4	12	15	3	5	3	10	12	31
15 Tottenham	25	3	5	5	19	18	4	4	5	15	14	30
16 Everton	26	5	1	7	16	20	3	3	7	12	17	28
17 Chelsea	24	5	3	4	13	17	1	4	7	7	18	25
18 Sheff Utd	26	4	5	4	14	15	2	5	6	7	24	25
19 Man City	24	4	3	4	12	15	2	3	7	8	15	21
20 Soton	25	5	1	7	16	18	1	2	9	8	18	21
21 Oldham	26	2	4	7	12	27	0	6	7	4	33	16
22 Swindon	26	2	4	7	12	27	0	6	7	14	33	16

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury 3 Wivenhoe 0; Basingstoke 0 Hendon 1; Carshalton 1 Kingstonian 4, Dorking 1 Enfield 3, Dulwich 0 Stevenage Borough 2, Grays 1 Molesey 2; Harrow 3 Hayes 3, Hitchin 1 Wokingham 0, St Albans 1 Marlow 2, Sutton United 3 Bromley 0; Yeading 0 Chesham 2. First division: Barking 3 Bishops Stortford 2; Billericay 3 Leyton 4, Chalfont St Peter 4 Croydon 0, Heybridge Swifts 3 Whyteleafe 0; Maidenhead 0 Boreham Wood 2; Purfleet 1 Berkhamsted 1; Uxbridge 0 Wembley 3; Walton and Hersham 3 Bognor Regis 0, Worthing 6 Rucio Manor 0 Second division: Aveley 0 Saffron Walden 0; Edgware 3 Ware 0, Hemel Hempstead 1 Metropolitan Police 3; Leatherhead 6 Raintam 0; Malden Vale 2 Chertsey 0. Third division: Bracknell 2 Flackwell Heath 2, Feltham and Hounslow 2 Epsom and Ewell 1; Harlow 1 Oxford City 2; Hornchurch 0 Camberley 0; Northwood 3 Horsham 1; Royston 1 Tring 2.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hamptonians 2 Mooderians 0

Endsleigh Insurance League

First division

BARNSLEY Rammell 44 5,222	(1)	1	BRISTOL C Scott 51	(0)	1
DERBY Johnson 90	(0)	1	PORTSMOUTH 15,645	(0)	0
GRIMSBY 8,577	(0)	0	STOKE	(0)	0
MILLWALL Rae 52	(0)	1	BOLTON 9,772	(0)	0
NOTTS CO Agana 70 6,589	(0)	1	LUTON Dixon 81, 88	(0)	2
OXFORD UTD Cusack 50 81 6,613	(0)	2	SOUTHEND Jones 57	(0)	1
PETERBORO Shodder 75 (og) Charlery 89	(0)	2	WEST BROM 7,757	(0)	0
WATFORD Porter 7 Nessenthaler 30 Furlong 40, 51, 56 (pen)	(3)	5	BIRMINGHAM Wolfe 69 McGavin 74 7,636	(0)	2
WOLVES Thompson 4C (pen) Kenna 78	(1)	2	C PALACE 23,851	(0)	0

Yesterday

LEICESTER Grayson 52 Balmer 81	(0)	2	CHARLTON Roberts 89 12,577	(0)	1
SUNDERLAND Gray 67 (pen) Vickers 75	(0)	2	MIDDLESBRO Howey 71 16,473	(0)	1
TRANMERE Aldridge 29 (pen) Cooper 79	(1)	1	NOTTM FOR Gemmill 84 8,500	(0)	2

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leicester	26	9	4	1	24	13	4	3	5	12	12	46
C Palace	25	8	2	1	21	8	6	2	6	22	21	46
Millwall	25	9	4	1	24	10	4	3	5	13	18	46
Tranmere	26	9	3	2	27	15	4	4	5	15	16	45
Charlton	25	9	2	3	21	7	4	4	5	11	15	45
Notts For	25	8	5	0	27	16	3	4	5	10	16	42
Derby	25	10	3	0	31	11	3	3	7	12	23	42
Wolves	25	7	6	1	24	12	3	5	4	17	15	41
Stoke	25	9	0	3	20	12	3	5	4	16	20	41
Southend	25	7	3	3	24	14	4	3	5	14	18	40
Bristol C	25	7	4	3	17	13	3	4	6	13	18	38
Portsmouth	25	6	4	2	17	10	2	5	5	14	22	37
Bolton	25	5	5	2	19	13	4	4	7	15	18	36
Sunderland	24	6	6	1	14	7	2	5	5	8	12	35
Notts Co	25	6	3	1	18	9	2	3	7	10	20	33
Middlesbro	25	6	4	2	17	8	2	3	5	15	19	33
Luton	25	6	3	4	18	13	2	4	7	12	20	32
Watford	25	6	4	4	26	23	1	2	9	13	28	27
Grimsby	25	6	3	3	18	14	0	4	8	7	15	25
Birmingham	25	6	4	4	17	17	1	1	7	10	12	26
West Brom	25	5	5	3	25	19	1	2	10	12	25	25
Oxford Utd	27	5	3	5	19	22	1	4	8	12	26	25
Barnsley	26	3	3	8	13	21	3	4	5	17	23	25
Peterboro	24	4	6	4	15	12	0	2	8	5	13	20

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop Auckland 1 Hyde 2; Buxton 3 Barrow 0; Chorley 4 Knowsley United 1, Droylsden 1 Leek 3, Emley 1 Boston 1, Frickley 2 Fleetwood 2; Gainsborough 3 Wisbord 1; Horwich 1 Whitley Bay 1, Marine 0 Matlock 0; Morecambe 1 Colwyn Bay 1. Postponed: Bridlington Town v Accrington Stanley. First division: Alfreton 2 Nothertield 5, Congleton 1 Gretna 2; Curzon Ashton 1 Eastwood Town 0, Goole 0 Great Harwood 1, Harrogate 1 Ashton United 0, Mossley 2 Caernarfon 0, Warrington 2 Spennymoor 2; Workington 2 Farsley Celtic 2.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Calne 1 Elmore 2; Chippenham 2 Tonnington 2, Mangotsfield 4 Saltash 1.

Second division

BARNET 3,022	(0)	0	HUDDERSFLD Robinson 25	(1)	1
BRIGHTON Edwards 45 Chapman 81 McCarthy 86	(1)	3	BOURNEMOUTH Murray 30, 70 Aspinall 61 9,689	(1)	3
BRISTOL R Taylor 24 McLean 64	(1)	2	CARDIFF Blake 80 5,683	(0)	1
BURNLEY 13,517	(0)	0	BRADFORD Showler 56	(0)	1
FULHAM 4,407	(0)	0	HULL Windass 59	(0)	1
HARTLEPOOL 1,690	(0)	0	CAMBRIDGE Rowell 14 Cusazzo 20	(2)	2
L ORIENT West 62 6,253	(0)	1	READING Lovell 32	(1)	1
PORT VALE Briggs 35 (og) Cross 38	(2)	2	BLACKPOOL 7,915	(0)	0
WREXHAM Bennett 31 3,701	(1)	1	BRENTFORD Boyle 83 Bates 88	(1)	2
YORK 4,115	(0)	0	PLYMOUTH	(0)	0

Postponed: Exeter v Stockport.

	HOME					AWAY							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
1 Reading	25	10	3	0	28	9	6	3	3	25	17	54	
2 Plymouth	24	8	3	1	25	12	5	5	3	4	20	18	45
3 Stockport	24	9	3	0	27	9	4	5	3	12	13	44	
4 Bristol R	24	8	4	2	19	13	7	1	4	15	14	44	
5 Burnley	25	10	1	1	27	10	4	4	4	12	17	43	
6 Port Vale	24	7	5	1	22	12	5	3	4	17	17	41	
7 Hull	25	6	4	3	22	14	5	5	2	15	18	42	
8 Brentford	25	6	6	4	21	18	5	4	3	17	12	42	
9 York	25	5	4	4	16	16	6	2	5	19	14	39	
10 Bradford	25	7	3	3	21	12	4	2	6	14	20	38	
11 Cambridge	25	6	3	4	19	12	4	5	4	13	16	38	
12 L Orient	25	6	5	2	19	13	3	5	4	13	15	37	
13 Blackpool	25	6	1	5	26	23	2	5	5	14	20	35	
14 Bournemouth	24	5	3	3	15	14	3	5	3	12	13	34	
15 Wrexham	25	7	3	2	20	10	2	3	7	12	23	33	
16 Huddersfld	24	3	4	4	10	14	4	3	5	16	17	28	
17 Cardiff	25	5	3	3	21	15	1	6	5	15	25	27	
18 Swansea	23	5	4	2	17	11	2	2	8	9	22	30	
19 Rotherham	23	4	3	4	19	18	2	4	7	13	22	28	
20 Exeter	22	5	3	3	15	10	1	4	6	7	24	25	
21 Brighton	25	3	6	4	15	16	2	3	6	11	22	24	
22 Fulham	25	3	4	7	9	14	4	1	8	16	24	22	
23 Hartlepool	24	3	4	5	13	18	1	3	9	9	22	20	
24 Barnet	24	1	2	9	11	20	1	2	9	13	33	16	

FA VASE: Fourth round: Radcliffe Borough 3 Boston 3; Atherton LR 0 Thackley 0; Raunds 1 Belper 2; Wrecham 0 Dunkirk 0; Kings Lynn 1 Northwich 0; Bridgnorth 3 Glossop North End 2; Oadby 5 Cogenhoe 1; Halstead 1 Wimborne 5; Taunton 1 Banstead Athletic 1; Whitehawk 3 Thame 2; Aldershot Town 5 Soham TR 0, Tiverton 5 Paulton 0; Hinckley Athletic 4 Collier Row 2, Arlesey 5 Falmouth 3.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Reptonians 1 Brentwoods 4, First division: Arcmans 1 Haileyburians 6; Wellingburians 1 Aldenhamians 1

Third division

BURY Cader 4 (pen), 9 Lucketti 32 Stevens 73	(3)	4	DONCASTER 2,383	(0)	0
COLCHESTER Dickens 75	(0)	1	HEREFORD 2,439	(0)	0
CREWE Smith 54 (pen) 3,894	(1)	1	SCARBORO White 33	(1)	1
DARLINGTON Palmer 68 Ellison 83	(0)	2	GILLINGHAM Henry 46 2,111	(0)	1
LINCOLN Williams 13 3,735	(1)	1	WYCOMBE Langford 53, 69 Evans 73	(0)	3
MANSFIELD 2,378	(0)	0	CARLISLE Reeves 15	(1)	1
PRESTON Ellis 71, 88 Cooney 90	(0)	3	WIGAN 7,726	(0)	0
SHREWSBURY Clarke 20 (pen), 42 Williams 67	(2)	3	CHESTER 5,365	(0)	0
TORQUAY Slate 1	(1)	1	CHESTERFLD 3,188	(0)	0
WALSALL Litts 2	(1)	1	ROCHDALE 4,437	(0)	0

Postponed: Northampton v Scunthorpe.

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Crewe	23	10	2	0	29	12	4	4	3	20	19	46
2 Preston	23	8	3	2	32	17	4	3	3	21	20	42
3 Shrewsbury	23	5	4	2	17	12	7	2	3	22	18	42
4 Walsall	24	6	3	4	21	15	6	3	3	21	11	42
5 Wycombe	23	8	2	2	20	13	5	5	2	22	21	41
6 Torquay	24	6	6	1	20	16	5	3	4	18	15	38
7 Chester	23	7	3	1	25	18	3	2	7	11	19	35
8 Bury	23	7	3	1	25	18	3	2	7	11	19	35
9 Scunthorpe	23	6	4	1	23	8	3	4	5	10	12	35
10 Rochdale	23	6	5	1	22	9	3	3	6	14	14	35
11 Colchester	22	6	1	4	17	13	3	2	6	14	24	30
12 Darlington	24	3	4	5	23	18	3	2	7	16	27	31
13 Carlisle	24	6	3	4	19	12	4	5	4	13	16	38
14 Chesterfld	22	6	1	4	17	13	3	2	6	14	24	30
15 Lincoln	21	5	2	3	17	13	3	2	5	15	18	28
16 Gillingham	23	6	4	2	17	11	1	3	7	10	19	28
17 Doncaster	24	5	2	5	17	18	3	1	8	9	22	27
18 Mansfield	23	5	1	5	13	15	2	5	5	12	20	27
19 Darlington	24	4	3	5	18	18	1	4	7	11	23	22
20 Hereford	23	4	3	5	16	19	1	3	7	13	22	21
21 Wigan	22	2	4	5	19	23	2	2	7	9	21	18
22 Northampn	23	2	4	4	12	14	0	2	11	11	33	12

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Briton Ferry 3 Haverfordwest 1; Caersws 3 Conwy 2; Connah's Quay 1 Porthmadog 0; Cwmbran 1 Maesteg Park 1; Ebbw Vale 3 Inter Cardiff 5; Llansantfraid 1 Newtown 3; Mold 1 Flint Town United 4.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards 3 Omagh Town 3, Bangor 1 Glentoran 0; Cliftonville 1 Portadown 1; Coleraine 3 Carrick 2; Distillery 4 Ballyclare 0; Glentoran 1 Ballymena 1; Linfield 3 Larne 0; Newry 0 Crusaders 2

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashfield 1 Lincoln United 5; Bridg 4 Ossett Albion 3; Eccleshill 0 Maltby MW 4; Hucknall 2 Pickering Town 2; Ossett Town 1 Glasshoughton Welfare 0; Pontefract Col 0 Liversedge 0.

Gtd Vauxhall Conference

ALTRINCHAM Williams 20 (og) Pennington 58 (pen) Harris 66	(1)	3	MERTHYR 696	(0)	0
DOVER 1,525	(0)	0	TELFORD Taylor 38	(1)	1
GATESHEAD 551	(0)	0	BROMSGROVE Stott 9	(1)	1
HALIFAX Lasbert 22 1,198	(1)	1	RUNCORN Brady 31	(1)	1
KIDDERMINSTER Purdie 11, 20 3,812	(2)	2	YEOVIL Wallace 37 Spencer 44 Wilson 53	(2)	3
MACCLESFLD Power 54 1,053	(0)	1	WOKING Dennis 81	(0)	1
NORTHWICH Bunker 19 O'Connor 48 (pen) Snowdon 53	(1)	3	WELLING Abbott 29 717	(1)	1
SLOUGH Scott 54 Bayer 90 743	(0)	2	STALYBRIDGE Anderson 8 Blade 53 Leicester 59	(1)	3
SOUTHPORT 1,472	(0)	0	DAG & RED	(0)	0
STAFFORD Mellon 64, 72	(0)	2	BATH 810	(0)	0
WITTON 796	(0)	0	KETTERING Graham 68	(0)	1

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
1 Kidderminster	24	8	3	2	18	7	4	2	5	16	16	41
2 Kettering	23	4	6	2	16	7	6	4	2	14	7	39
3 Southport	23	5	7	1	17	12	5	2	3	16	13	39
4 Welling	23	7	3	2	21	13	3	4	5	12	16	37
5 Stalybrig	23	6	3	2	15	10	4	2	6	12	16	35
6 Bath	23	4	4	4	22	14	4	5	2	13	9	33
7 Stafford	23	7	3	2	24	15	1	5	4	11	17	32
8 Runcorn	23	7	2	2	26	16	0	9	3	14	22	32
9 Dover	23	6	1	3	21	11	2	7	2	9	17	32
10 Slough	23	5	3	3	23	16	2	6	4	8	17	30
11 Macclesfld	22	5	3	4	20	15	4	0	6	12	20	30
12 Halifax	24	5	3	4	20	15	4	0	8	12	20	30
13 Merthyr	24	4	7	1	16	10	2	5	5	15	21	30
14 Gateshead	23	4	4	3	12	8	3	3	5	12	18	28
15 Bromsgrov	23	2	4	5	14	14	2	4	7	17	25	26
16 Yeovil	23	4	2	5	16	14	2	2	5	14	23	25
17 Northwich	23	3	5	2	11	9						

Beardsley conjures goal with art of a magician

Queens Park Rangers ... 1
Newcastle United 2

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE ability, technique and enthusiasm of Peter Beardsley transcended and won this match to put Newcastle deservedly into third place in the FA Carling Premiership. It was a goal from Beardsley, just after an hour of equality, that decided matters, a goal, in the words of his manager, Kevin Keegan, worthy of winning any contest, a goal that demonstrates there will be no diminution in the influence of this little magpie so close to his 33rd birthday on Tuesday.

Beardsley conjured the score in the essence of what was once described by Pelé as "the art of creating something out of nothing." He began the movement himself near the halfway line, attempting an exchange of passes with Clark. And when Clark's return ball was intercepted by Barker, we saw the sudden optimism, the injection of pace from Beardsley.

He quickly ran at Barker, and stole the ball back with an interception off his chest. Then, quickening the pulse still more, he brought Cole into play.

Cole returned the ball with the outside of his boot was slanted just behind the Rangers' centre back, Yates. Beardsley set off in pursuit; there was no reason why he might win the ball, no apparent room for him to do so. Yet, without trying to get around the defender, he snaked out his right foot and controlled a splendid volley, two feet off the ground, past the stunned goalkeeper, Roberts.

In the dressing room afterwards Keegan, who might yet be involved with the England set-up, said that whoever becomes the new manager of the nation he has four strikers — Shearer, Cole, Ferdinand and Wright — and that any of them would benefit from playing alongside the ageless Beardsley.

Two of them were in opposition yesterday. Cole was involved in the goal after four minutes when Newcastle caught QPR slumbering. An errant back-pass from Wilson, harassed into the error by Sellars, put Roberts, the goalkeeper, in all kinds of trouble. Sellars intercepted it. Cole then bravely went in to win the ball off Roberts, and when it came back outside the area Clark, from 20 yards, struck it low into the net past the stranded Bardsley.

Rangers countered with a longer game than Newcastle. They were looking for their target man, Ferdinand.

But it was not Ferdinand who scored. Bardsley had swung the ball high into the penalty area and Penrice stole in like Fagan. He controlled the ball on his chest and as it fell beat Robinson to score his fifth goal of the season.

Between that equaliser and the winner the was seldom on the highest plains of which both teams are capable. Queens Park Rangers were handicapped because Ferdinand was limping after injuring a thigh in the collision with Hooper and, although the home team astutely preyed on the right flank, getting in behind the adventurous Beresford, it was only in the last desperate moments that we saw a salmon-like leap from Ferdinand.

Sinclair invited it with a deceptively swaying cross; the big centre forward did indeed lose Howey in the air, but was thwarted by Hooper. The former Liverpool goalkeeper anticipated the leap, positioned himself expertly, and was there to pluck the ball after Ferdinand's contact, not two yards away.

At the end Keegan observed: "It is the turn of the Geordies, we are leaving good players out."

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): T Roberts — D Bardsley, D Peacock, S Yates, C Wilson — A Impey (sub: M Morley, 65min), S Barker, R Wilson, T Sinclair — G Penrice, L Ferdinand
NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): M Hooper — M Robinson, B Venison, S Howey, J Beresford — R Lee, P Bracewell, L Clark, S Sellars — P Beardsley, A Cole
Referee: D Gallagher

Supporters' elation covers up cracks at The Dell

Southampton 1
Coventry City 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

HAPPY days at The Dell. Smiling faces, long-forgotten chants of *When The Saints Go Marching In*, spontaneous applause for the occasional flicker of skill and a rare win in the FA Carling Premiership. No red cards held aloft by supporters, no banners imploring dismissals galore, no discontent. And no Ian Branfoot.

It was as if a curse had been lifted from Southampton, a club more noted for its sympathetic treatment of managers — it has appointed only four in 39 years — than the bile that has spouted forth from the terraces over the past few months. No Ian Branfoot: the key to the buoyant, almost festive, atmosphere on Saturday. Three points was merely a bonus: it was time to gloat and celebrate a victory for the power of the people.

What now, though? Branfoot resigned last week before the noose tightened. It was the act of a condemned man, who could take no more, and was not entirely unrelated to the arrival of Lawrie McMenemy, the former Southampton manager, as an unpaid director two weeks earlier.

McMenemy, 57, an authoritative figure, feels he can contribute to a new dawn at The Dell. Perhaps not as Branfoot's successor, not in the immediate firing line, but as a guiding, fatherly influence. Say general manager. "My heart has always been here and, when I was team manager, I used to do it all," he said. "But I'm prepared to drop back a bit now and let someone else look after the football side of things. I'd still love to be part of the club in some executive capacity."

Assuming he is asked to oversee operations, and he has a knack of fulfilling his dreams, who does he bring in to revitalise a side that is long on endeavour yet short on class? Alan Ball, a former Saint, remains at the head of the queue if he can be prised away from Exeter City. If not, the search broadens to anybody with a past Southampton connection, however tenuous.

It must be completed swiftly, though, to preserve the modicum of momentum gained from beating Coventry City. Le Tissier's 44th-minute penalty, after Paul Williams had clumsily felled Dowie, was enough to settle a scrappy affair between teams of equally suspect calibre.

Such poor fare was lost on the home supporters. Branfoot was history and the vitriol of yesterday had been replaced by the hope of tomorrow. On Saturday, The Dell was alive again; little else mattered.

SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-3): D Beasant — J Kenna, K Monkou, S Wood, S Charlton — J Dodd, P Allen, T Widdrington — N Maddison, I Dowie, M Le Tissier
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — B Borrows, P Atherton, P Babb, P Williams — S Flynn, J Darby, D Rennie, P Ndlovu — J Williams (sub: L Jenkinson, 73min), M Quinn.
Referee: P Don.

United feed on example of Cantona

Tottenham Hotspur 0
Manchester United 1

BY KEITH PIKE

ANY doubts about Manchester United's pre-eminence in English football disappeared some time ago. There can be no dispute, either, about the identity of the next player of the year. Eric Cantona could finish as far clear of the field in that contest as his club threatens to do in the FA Carling Premiership.

Like Chris Waddle, the winner last year, Cantona is a crowd-pleaser, a showman who can rescue the most ordinary of matches or apply the finishing touches to a masterpiece. There were times at White Hart Lane on Saturday when a packed, noisy crowd gasped in unison at the Frenchman's flamboyance.

Yet there is so much more to his game than fancy footwork. Cantona was the conductor of United's triumph, not the soloist, dropping deep in the first half to deliver the passes that established their superiority and only moving forward later to press that advantage home. The range and accuracy of his passes, and the vision that preceded some of them, were mesmerising.

His strength, too, was a critical factor in United's victory. As Tottenham's youngsters and a few of his own colleagues tired on a heavy surface that sapped both muscles and lungs, Cantona ploughed on regardless.

Flair, fitness and enthusiasm bordering on fanaticism: it is a powerful combination, and one that Alex Ferguson, the United manager, plans to utilise to the full as he tries to secure the 23 points from 16 remaining matches he believes will guarantee a second successive championship.

"He is the one forward who has not missed a game since the December programme started," Ferguson said. "I wanted to rest him against Portsmouth [in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final on Wednesday] and he had a heavy cold so it was a good opportunity, but he was desperate to play."

Ferguson, and United, are leaving nothing to chance, and the team's physical condition is carefully monitored. "We did a test on the players last week and the nutritionist says it is the best they have been," Ferguson said. Nine of his players have less than ten per cent body fat. Cantona, with eight per cent, was top of the list.

These are lean times for Tottenham, too. At present, they look fit only to drop. Since Sheringham damaged knee ligaments at Old Trafford on October 16 they have won just two out of 16 Premiership matches, slipping from fifth to fifteenth, and Osvaldo Ardiles, their manager, recognises that his team could soon be in the thick of a battle for survival.

Sheringham is perhaps still a month away from a return, and other injuries have ripped the spine from the team. Courageously as they played on Saturday their inexperience, and their need to buy a striker, could not be disguised. "We are asking a lot of our young players, maybe too much, and I would love to give one or two of them a rest, but we simply have nobody else," Ardiles said.

A signing can be expected within the next few days, but Tottenham will not break the bank. Before the match Alan Sugar, the chairman, had reiterated that the club will not be pushed into "panic buying", and Ardiles said: "I understand Alan perfectly well. He is desperate to put us on a good financial footing, not lurch from one crisis to the next."

The goal that decided this match came early in the second half, Hughes making contact with Keane's right-wing cross at the near post and the ball deflecting in off Calderwood. Cantona, of course, had been heavily involved in the build-up. It was an untidy way for United to crown a very smart performance.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-1-3-2): J Walker — D Kerslake, C Calderwood, S Sedgley, J Edinburgh (sub: D Austin, 57min) — V Samways — D Anderton, M Hazard; D Caskey — S Campbell, N Barmby (sub: J Hendry, 65).
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — P Parker, S Bruce, G Pallister, D Irwin — A Kanchelskis, R Keane, P Ince, R Giggs — E Cantona, M Hughes (sub: B McClair 82).
Referee: R Milford.

ADAM BUTLER



Hughes, left, of Manchester United, and Calderwood, the Tottenham defender, challenge for the ball at White Hart Lane on Saturday

Everton welcome Walker with late feast

Everton 6
Swindon Town 2

BY PETER BALL

AS THE last England manager frequently stated, Napoleon wanted lucky generals at his side. On the evidence so far, unlike Graham Taylor, Mike Walker would have had Napoleon's blessing.

The perfect introduction for a new football manager must be playing Swindon Town at home. Even so, Everton nearly made a mess of it at Goodison Park on Saturday before Swindon's defence ensured that it all came right for Walker to receive his second ovation at the end.

But if the supporters left euphoric after seeing a team which had not scored a home league goal for more than four and a half hours suddenly collect six, Walker was not fooled. "At times we played some great football, but at others we looked like schoolboys," he said afterwards.

"We've got to tighten up our defending, and some of the passing. But there were positive things, too. We showed both sides of our character today." So did Swindon. At times, with Moncur and Ling orchestrating some fine passing movements, they looked like the team which played so effectively under the leadership of Glenn Hoddle, but nobody would recognise their back four as Premiership defenders. Inept would be a kind description.

On Saturday, Swindon's defence sold the pass from almost the first Everton attack. It took Everton four minutes to go ahead as Jackson and Ward combined down the right, Cottee touched back the centre and Ebbrell placed his shot beyond Hammond.

One up to Walker, who had spent the week urging his midfield men to get forward more. "The manager said that if I wasn't getting the ball off the back four, I should get up and support the forwards," Ebbrell said.

It was to be an eventful afternoon for him. Soon, as the other side of Everton's character showed, he had to leave the field to have stitches in a wound after a misunderstanding with Horne led to a clash of heads as they went for the same ball.

Ebbrell returned in time to see Mutch hit the bar from Bodin's cross before Cottee scored the first of his three goals. Cottee turned Ebbrell's pass into the empty net after Hammond had only parried a long, and far from fierce shot from Beagrie, to send Everton in at the interval leading 3-0 with the game apparently won.

Instead it was turned upside down in the opening period of the second half as Mutch was sent off when a flailing arm left Ebbrell clutching a broken nose to add to his injuries. "He looks like he's been in a boxing match, not a football match," Brett Angell said afterwards. The complaints of injustice by John Gorman, the Swindon manager, sounded hollow.

But if Swindon felt an injustice, their response was positive as Everton's defence began to rival their visitors for generosity. Moncur was allowed a free header from Summerbee's perfect cross and then Snodin presented the ball to Bodin. Suddenly it was 2-2.

Swindon's defence was as instrumental as Everton's attackers for the dramatic turn of events. Ablett got the crucial third goal after Fenwick fouled Beagrie, leaving Cottee to complete his hat-trick and Beagrie to claim the sixth as the crowd celebrated. Will they be celebrating so happily after Bolton Wanderers' visit in the FA Cup on Wednesday?

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — M Jackson, I Snodin, G Ablett, A Hinchcliffe — M Ward, B Horne, J Ebbrell, P Beagrie — A Cottee (sub: S Barlow, 89min), B Angell.
SWINDON TOWN (4-4-2): N Hammond — T Fenwick, A Whitbread, S Taylor, K Horlock (sub: L Nijholt, 78) — N Summerbee, J Moncur, M Ling, P Bodin — K Scott (sub: J Allon, 78), A Mutch.
Referee: G Ashby.

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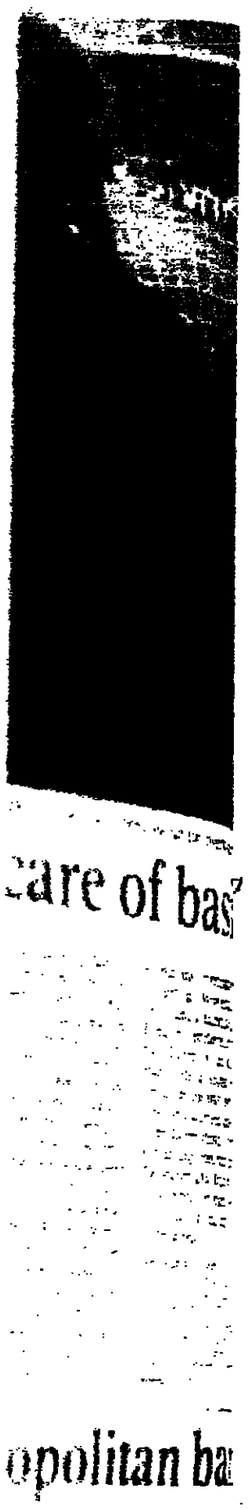
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Reading between the lines

Hailed as a panacea for slow learning, the latest reading scheme abandons some children to their fate, argues **John Bald**

When the Reading Recovery scheme was imported from New Zealand two years ago, it was hailed by politicians of both main parties as the answer to a growing problem of slow readers. But new evidence suggests that the programme of intensive tuition may be inadequate to cope with the full range of problems.

Dame Marie Clay's system combines pragmatism with a search for the educational equivalent of the philosopher's stone. On the one hand, its revised manual offers a superb collection of teaching techniques, backed by what is probably the most intensive and practical programme for teacher-training in the world. On the other, its aim is no less than to take six-year-old pupils from the weakest 20 per cent of the school population — in the UK, normally four children per class — and enable them, through a course of daily half-hour lessons lasting up to 20 weeks, to reach the average level of attainment for their class and then to sustain an average rate of progress without further help. In theory, only a tiny proportion of children will then need to be referred for long-term educational support: in New Zealand, referral rates have fallen to 1 per cent of the age group.

The scheme is growing rapidly throughout the English-speaking world, and currently operates in 25 local education authorities in England. It is receiving strong support from Her Majesty's Inspectors, and seems set to have its funding extended by the Department for Education in the next round of training grants — an application from Derbyshire has even been rejected for failing to include Reading Recovery.

It is popular with politicians because it offers a costed, if expensive, option, built-in quality control and a track record which contrasts with the anarchy of Baroness Warnock's statementing system. Under the latter, a pupil is commonly allocated a number of hours' teaching per week for a year at a time without any guarantee of its quality. Expenditure is also largely uncontrolled.

There is little doubt that children who experience Reading Recovery benefit from it, but there are still questions about its claim to make permanent changes in children's performance, and so save on long-term costs. The evidence is limited. There has been some reduction in the provision for reading difficulties in New Zealand secondary schools — in one example, from 30 per cent of the population to 20 per cent. This is helpful, but well short of the goal of sustaining average progress for all but 1 per cent of children. In a study in the US state of Ohio, the proportion of pupils beginning Reading Recovery who are still making average progress at age nine has been assessed as 54 per cent. An accurate estimate of the scheme's long-term effects on performance and costs requires much more detailed tracking of individual pupils than has so far been undertaken. This should be put in place at once.

Dame Marie argues that most children (80 to 90 per cent) need its techniques "or any modification of them", but acknowledges the need for schools to provide a "sound" classroom programme for children between the ages of five and eight. The declining test scores for seven-year-olds in England suggest that we are not currently teaching reading as effectively as we should.

The first English authority to introduce Reading Recovery — Surrey — has recently reported a "dramatic" increase in the number of pupils entering its secondary schools with reading quotients two years behind the average (from 639 in 1991 to 1,153 in 1992). But Reading Recovery was never designed to deal with such wholesale underachievement. The growing list of weak readers in this country will probably only be helped by changes in basic classroom practice. British children entering Reading Recovery have lower assessment scores than those in New Zealand, where the primary curriculum appears to be narrower and more closely focused on basic skills than that in the UK.

The assertion that all but a handful of children can learn to read effectively without the teaching techniques of Reading Recovery has been politically convenient for the scheme, as it has allowed it to co-exist with more or less any approach to reading in the classroom. But the observations of children learning to read on which Reading Recovery is based show that it is only the most able children who can learn with minimal instruction, and that it is more sensible to have a flexible programme which is sufficiently detailed to meet the needs of all pupils. Reading Recovery, by concentrating exclusively on the least successful, leaves the below-average to their fate.

Other significant weaknesses in the scheme include the criterion of "average attainment for their class" — the ultimate elastic ruler — in deciding when to release a child from the programme, the practice of "roaming around the known" with pupils for five hours before beginning teaching, and the celebrated "running record" for reading, which records pupils' errors in detail, but only marks what they read correctly by a series of ticks on a blank page.

It is very difficult for teachers in training to make points such as these, as there is a tendency to treat the manual — including the previous version, which was in the course of revision during last year's training — as a bible. Teachers are encouraged to comment critically on each other's performance, but not on the course itself.

Thanks partly to dictation and the detailed study of spelling, results of Reading Recovery testing are often better in writing than in reading. The revised manual puts greater emphasis on awareness of sounds and on phonic work, which have been shown to improve the efficiency of Reading Recovery in an American study.

However, Dame Marie still accepts the notion that the fluent reader does not normally use text as a prime source of meaning, but as a means of checking predictions, so that "what he thinks the text will say can be checked by looking for sound-to-letter associations". This is the late sixties "psycholinguistic guessing game" theory of reading that has caused many of our current problems and is now totally refuted by research, not least Dame Marie's own. Both she and Reading Recovery would be better off without it.

SIMON TOWNSLEY



A pupil in Surrey has a lesson under the Reading Recovery scheme to help him catch up with his class

More choice for postgrads

Facing a squeeze, universities are courting higher degree students

UNIVERSITIES are waiting to hear the worst about the effect on their expansion plans of the freeze on undergraduate recruitment announced in November's Budget. Their funding councils will be indicating the likely scale of the cutbacks later this month.

However, the cloud produced by the Government's "period of consolidation" may have a silver lining for postgraduate programmes. Higher degrees are unaffected by the policy because they do not carry the public spending implications associated with mandatory grants and tuition fees.

The boom in taught postgraduate courses of the last five years shows no sign of waning, in spite of the financial difficulties faced by the students. Every year there are more programmes and more reason to look for a qualification that will mark students out from their peers.

Universities such as Oxford, Cambridge and Warwick had already decided before the latest squeeze that their main growth should be in postgraduate places. Now many more are likely to follow suit until undergraduate growth is permitted to resume.

The number of students taking higher degrees has doubled in the last decade, and there have been significant developments designed to ensure that the pace does not slacken.

One was the introduction of the central information service, run in *The Times* and *The Times Higher Education Supplement* last summer, listing vacancies for taught courses and research studentships respectively. The vice-chancellors' own company, Higher Education Business Enterprises (HEBE), which devised the system and collected the information, is planning to develop the service further.

Two supplements will appear with *The Times*, in the spring and summer, again concentrating on Masters degrees and other taught courses. The *THES* is to announce its plans later this month.

Last year more than 80 per cent of the 204 universities and colleges offering taught courses and/or research studentships used the service. More than 3,000 programmes were listed in the two editions of *Second Degree*, and HEBE reports an enthusiastic response.

THE OTHER development common to many universities is the spread of modular schemes, which allow students to build their own programmes from a variety of options, and even to choose the length of course. The modular approach, which has swept British universities' undergraduate programmes, is ideally suited to postgraduate courses.

At Huddersfield University students can choose between a number of "pathways", taking modules from courses outside their own subject in many cases. Professor Colin Robson, the director of postgraduate programmes, says in the postgraduate prospectus for 1994-95 that there are opportunities for students to proceed at their own pace, a valuable feature for those studying part-time.

JOHN O'LEARY

Are you safe at the wheel?

Teachers are learning how to drive minibuses properly

Thousands of boys and girls aged from four to 18 pile into the school minibus every day for trips ranging from a visit to the local swimming pool to a week-long field trip several hundreds of miles away in Wales or the Lake District.

The journeys are a matter of routine and have an increasingly important part to play in school life if the national curriculum is to be exploited to the full and extra activities provided.

There is hardly an independent school in the country that does not own at least one minibus and a growing number of state secondary schools are joining them. Schools that do not have their own frequently hire or borrow them from the local authority.

The question of safety, so often taken for granted, was thrown into stark relief by the crash that killed 12 children and a teacher from Hagley Roman Catholic High School, Warwickshire, when their minibus ran into the rear of a motorway maintenance vehicle on the hard shoulder of the M40 last year.

Much needs to be done. Three out of 33 teachers who attended day courses run by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) were told that they should not drive their school minibus until after further training. Bob Smalley, the society's chief examiner, says: "The main difficulty is that people cannot make the transfer from a small car to a larger vehicle that needs more space to deal with traffic situations, more time to brake and more time to get away at roundabouts."

Numbers enrolling on the RoSPA course have risen dramatically since the M40 crash, with 104 teachers registered for training this January and February, but Mr Smalley is still disappointed with the response: "I would like to see more schools take up training. A number of schools have their own in-house assessment arrangements, which often consist of a half-hour drive around the local streets, but I do not believe these arrangements are satisfactory."

Parents and children rely on the school to ensure standards as there are few legal requirements: to drive a minibus with up to 17 seats, drivers have only to be over 21 and hold a full driver's licence. Private minibuses are also subject to less stringent maintenance and mechanical checks than public service vehicles.

The RoSPA courses are one of a number of steps being taken to improve safety. Leyland DAF provides training courses for schools buying its new vehicles and RoSPA has joined with the National Union of Teachers (NUT) in publishing safety advice.

Alec Synge, the head of Birchfield, an 185-pupil day and boarding boys' prep school near Wolverhampton, says that his school had been considering courses for the staff who drive the minibus for some time and that the decision was finally taken because of the M40 tragedy. Mr Synge considered a number of options but finally chose the RoSPA day course, which cost £240 plus VAT for three staff.

Geoff Bull, Birchfield's groundsman and caretaker, has been driving a minibus for 12 years but has only recently taken over responsibility for running the school's own service for ferrying day pupils to and from the school. Francis Tavernor, head of humanities, drives the bus on field trips and sporting events. Johnathan Wrennall, is in charge of physical education and uses the bus to carry school teams.

All three were apprehensive as they took turns in driving the school's 17-seater F registered safety-belted bus with RoSPA instructor Mike Stringer sitting in the front passenger seat carefully making notes. There was no test but a report on all three will be sent to the school. Mr Stringer said he felt safe with all three but that they would all have to take more care when approaching junctions.

Mr Stringer has cause to be particularly concerned about school minibus safety. His 20-year-old son is a former pupil at Hagley High and his 11-year-old son is due to start there in September.

The basis of the RoSPA course is defensive driving, to protect the driver and passengers from other vehicles.

In a two-hour classroom session before the actual driving on both urban roads and motorways, Mr Stringer ran through a host of do's and don'ts. The central message is to allow yourself enough space to get out of trouble, in front, behind and to each side of the vehicle, together with both observation and considering the use of hand signals, particularly when slowing down or turning right.

Among the don'ts: do not flash lights as a signal to oncoming traffic, as it can too often be misunderstood; do not turn the wheels before a turn as the vehicle would be pushed into oncoming traffic if struck from behind.

Among the tips: allow a two-second gap between you and the car in front, or on a motorway, the space between three of the roadside markers.

The three from Birchfield all believed the course was worthwhile. Francis Tavernor says: "I am convinced that the longer you drive, the more you forget and I was very glad to do this course."

DAVID TYTLER

NEWS TEAM



Framed in a wing mirror, instructor Mike Stringer (left) supervises Francis Tavernor

STEPS TO AVOIDING ACCIDENTS

The RoSPA/NUT advice for teachers driving minibuses:
- Teachers should not use minibuses with side-facing seats.
- Seatbelts should be fitted to all seats.
- Teacher-drivers should be accompanied by a suitably qualified adult.
- Both adults should know how to handle emergencies such as illness, breakdown or accident.
- School minibuses should be subject to maintenance and construction standards demanded for commercial vehicles.
- All teacher-drivers should be given appropriate training and regular testing and be able to carry out simple daily vehicle checks.
- Any teacher not satisfied with the arrangements should refuse to take part in the trip.

POSTS

UNIVERSITY of OXFORD

Applications are invited for two posts in the broad area of Old Testament Studies as set out below. Further details about both posts are available from Ms H. Beckett, Secretary to the Board of the Faculty of Theology, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD (Fax (UK) 0865 270708; (overseas) +44 865 270708). Separate applications should be made for each post to the addresses specified in the further particulars by Monday 21 February 1994 and candidates should ask their referees to send references to the addresses given by the same date.

(i) University of Oxford in association with St Peter's College

University Lecturership in Theology (Old Testament)

Applications are invited for the above post, tenable from 1 October 1994. Stipend will be according to age on the scale £13,601 to £26,803. The successful candidate may be offered a tutorial fellowship by St Peter's College.

Further particulars containing details of the duties and full range of emoluments and allowances attaching to both the university post and the tutorial fellowship at St Peter's may be obtained from the address above.

(ii) Worcester College in association with the University of Oxford

Official Tutorial Fellowship in Theology

The College proposes to elect to an Official Tutorial Fellowship in Theology in association with a University (CUF) Lecturership, probably to be taken up on 1 October 1994. The Fellow's duties will be to teach for the Honour Schools of Theology and of Philosophy and Theology, and to engage in advanced study and research. The Fellow should be able to teach across a broad range in the area of Old Testament studies.

Application forms and further particulars of the post (open to men and women) are obtainable from the address above.

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(Voluntary Aided)

Headteacher

Group 5

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The school has active governors, an established senior management team and a general manager. The governors expect the new headteacher to continue recent behaviour initiatives and improvements in academic achievement. The successful applicant will combine vision and tenacity with courage and Christian commitment.

This post will be available from 1st September 1994.

Salary: Group 5 negotiable. Inner London Allowance and Supplement payable.

For an information pack and application form please send an A4 size stamped addressed envelope to Eve Morath, Burlington Danes Church of England School, Danes Building, Du Cane Road, London, W12 0TY.

Interested candidates are welcome to discuss the post and the school with the present headteacher, Michael Bedford.

Closing date for applications: Friday 11th February 1994.

The Governing Body of Burlington Danes is an equal opportunity employer

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- Graduate with good degree and significant successful experience of management, at a senior level, in schools.
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- Good teacher and communicator with inspiration and drive.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Applications are invited for the following Lectureships, tenable from September 1994. Appointments will be made initially on a three-year fixed term basis.

Lectureships in the Department of Education

Vacancies exist in the following areas: (1) Developmental Psychology with Reference to Education (Serial No. RF-93/94-35); (2) Special Education/Education of Children with Learning Difficulties (Serial No. RF-93/94-36); (3) Management and Administration of Education (Serial No. RF-93/94-37); and (4) Education Research Methods (Serial No. RF-93/94-38).

Closing date: 14 February 1994.

Lectureships in the Department of Curriculum Studies

Vacancies exist in the following areas: (1) Applied Linguistics and English Language Education (Serial No. RF-93/94-45); (2) Chinese Language, Linguistics and Literature Education (Serial No. RF-93/94-46); and (3) Mathematics Education (Serial No. RF-93/94-47).

Closing date: 14 February 1994.

For all Lectureship posts applicants should possess a Master's degree in a relevant area and have previous teaching and professional experience, preferably in the Hong Kong context. Demonstrated ability in research will be required, and possession of a doctorate will be an advantage. For some posts, an ability to speak Cantonese will also be an advantage.

All applicants should indicate clearly which field they wish to be considered for.

Annual salary (non-superannuable but attracting 15% (taxable) terminal gratuity) is on an 11-point scale, with starting salary depending on qualifications and experience: HK$377,220 - HK$630,180 (approx. £33,090 - £55,280; sterling equivalents as at 4 January 1994).

At current rates salaries tax will not exceed 15% of gross income. Children's education allowances, leave and medical benefits are provided; housing or tenancy allowances are also provided in most cases at a charge of 7.5% of salary.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Appointments Department, Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, UK (tel. 071 387 8572 ext. 206; fax 071 383 0368); or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (fax: (852) 559 2068; E-mail: APPTUNIT@HKUVM1.HKU.HK).

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

Librarian & Dean of Information Services

Applications are invited for the post of University Librarian together with an appointment for a renewable five year period as Dean of Information Services. The person appointed to these posts will be directly responsible to the Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive for the management of the University Library and for the strategic co-ordination of the University's information services (Library, Computing and Audio Visual Services).

Candidates should have a record of achievement in relation to the strategic development and implementation of an information services strategy at an institutional level in the public or private sectors.

A substantial remuneration package, reflecting the strategic responsibilities of the appointment, will be available for a candidate with the appropriate experience and evidence of promise and of success.

Further particulars are available from the Secretariat (JWAS), University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 5XH (Tel 0483 259102 Fax 0483 259988) to whom applications should be returned by 18 February 1994.

The University is committed to an Equal Opportunities Policy.



PROFESSORSHIPS

As part of the University's policy of strengthening its research activities the following Chairs will be filled with effect from 1 September 1994. Applications are invited from candidates with established research records and proven academic leadership. The University will be pleased to receive applications from young scholars who already have records of attainment.

CHAIR IN CONSTRUCTION ECONOMICS

The School of Construction Economics and Management is one of the UK's largest providers of undergraduates, postgraduates and diplomates for the construction professions.

This post is intended to extend and complement the School's already well established research record in Construction Management. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate a substantial research and publication record, together with the ability to lead research and encourage innovation. Informal enquiries should be made to Professor Rodney Howes, Head of School. Tel: 071-928 8989 ext. 7201.

Please quote ref: CEM/2

CHAIR IN SOCIOLOGY

Applications are invited from experienced researchers for a new chair in the sociology of mass communications and public policy. Working in the area of Legal, Political and Social Sciences the successful candidate will play a key role in the development of applied social research within the University, building on the strong research base in sociology, social policy and politics.

Candidates should have a good record of research, have published widely and have proven ability to attract funds. The person appointed will be expected to encourage significant new research within the broad area of communications, social change, public policy and social differentiation. Commitment to applied policy relevant to research is essential.

Informal enquiries should be made to Professor Lew Lewis, Head of Legal, Political and Social Sciences. Tel: 071-928 8989 ext. 5036.

Please quote ref: LPSS/66

CHAIR IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

The School of Education and Health Studies has a strong record of research in health and social care from its broad base of professional education and social science research. The person appointed would lead research in, and further development of, primary health care. A disciplinary background in health economics, epidemiology or health policy analysis would be preferred.

Informal enquiries should be made to Professor Wendy Couchman, Head of School. Tel: 071-928 8989 ext 8001 or Professor Judy Allsop, Head of Division of Health and Social Policy within the area of Legal, Political and Social Sciences in the Business School. Tel: 071-928 8989 ext 5066.

Please quote ref: EHS/58

CHAIR IN FOOD BIOTECHNOLOGY

The School of Applied Science has recently established a Food Research Centre (FRC) and is seeking to appoint a professor in the area of Food Biotechnology.

The new appointee will complement and strengthen current research activities within the Centre. The successful candidate will be expected to provide research leadership and to work with existing teams. Proven experience of generating external funding in a competitive environment is essential.

Informal enquiries should be made to Dr Geoff Evans, Head of School of Applied Science. Tel: 071-928 8989 ext 7936 or Martin Chaplin, Head of Biological Science.

Please quote ref: AS/51

CHAIR IN COMPUTATIONAL FLUID DYNAMICS

The School of Engineering Systems and Design is seeking to appoint a professor to take a leading role in the expansion of thermofluids. The chair will complement research in the areas of thermoelectronics, heat transfer, refrigeration acoustics and ventilation aerodynamics. The School's thermofluids research groups use commercial engineering software and laser anemometry and also develop special purpose CFD code.

We are looking for an individual with an established research record and the commitment and ability to expand the School's computational fluid dynamic research capability.

Informal enquiries should be made to Professor Richard Matthews, Head of School. Tel: 071-928 8989 ext 7601

Please quote ref: ESD/2

Salary for each post is negotiable on the professorial scale.

An application form and further details are available from: Human Resources Department, South Bank University, 103 Borough Road, London SE1 0AA. Tel: 071-815 6223 (24 hour answering service). Please quote the relevant reference number. Closing date for applications: 18 February 1994

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CHAIR IN FOOD RESEARCH

The University of Strathclyde invites applications from candidates with wide experience and a proven track record in food research to provide leadership to the Department of Bioscience and Biotechnology's Food Research Group. The successful candidate will be expected to play a leading role in developing food research, and will have a proven research reputation in one or more food-related areas such as food microbiology, food biochemistry, food quality and safety, human nutrition. **(Ref. No. 2/94).**

Applications Closing Date: 18th February 1994.

CHAIR IN ECONOMIC HISTORY

The University of Strathclyde invites applications from candidates with outstanding research records in any field of economic and social history in the period since 1700, which has long been an area of importance and strength in the Department of History's research and teaching. The successful candidate will be expected to reinforce the Department of History's commitment to the pursuit of excellence in teaching as well as in research. **(Ref. No. 3/94).**

Applications Closing Date: 11th February 1994.

LECTURESHIP IN ACADEMIC PRACTICE

Applications are invited from candidates with appropriate postgraduate qualifications and several years' teaching experience within higher education for a Lectureship in the Centre for Academic Practice which is responsible within the University for the provision of staff development, the support of student learning and for applied research in the fields of effective teaching and learning. Candidates should be adept at working with groups and individuals on various facets of promoting effective teaching and learning and demonstrate the ability to function as a member of a responsive, hard-working and committed team. **(Ref. No. 4/94).**

Applications Closing Date: 4th February 1994.

LECTURESHIP IN PLANNING

Applications are invited for a new Lectureship in the Centre for Planning to teach on RTPI accredited courses at the undergraduate and postgraduate level. The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate an established research interest together with a publication record. Preference will be given to candidates with teaching and research interests in the fields of development appraisal/processes, strategic/metropolitan planning and environmental planning. **(Ref. No. 5/94).**

Applications Closing Date: 1st February 1994.

LECTURESHIP IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering. Candidates should be well-qualified in Chemical Engineering or a related discipline and should have research and/or industrial experience. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and undertake relevant research - the Department's main research areas are Fuzzy Modelling and Control, Membrane Technology and Biochemical Engineering. **(Ref. No. 6/94).**

Applications Closing Date: 7th February 1994.

SENIOR LECTURESHIP AND LECTURESHIP IN ORTHOTICS AND PROSTHETICS

Applications are invited from qualified Prosthetist/Orthotists with substantial experience and knowledge of traditional and modern practice for two academic appointments (one at Senior Lecturer level, the second at Lecturer level) in the National Centre for Training and Education in Prosthetics and Orthotics. Preference will be given to candidates with either a Degree or Higher Diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics. **(Ref. No. 8/94).**

Applications Closing Date: 2nd February 1994.

Salaries: Professorial salaries are commensurate with the seniority of the appointment; Senior Lectureship up to £29,788 per annum; Lectureships up to £25,102 per annum.

For application form and further particulars (please quote reference number) contact the Personnel Office, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow G1 1XQ.

The University now incorporates the former Jordanhill College as its Faculty of Education.

The University is an equal opportunities employer.

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

SCHOLARSHIPS

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For more information, telephone 081 992 5823 or write ISL at 139 Gunnersbury Avenue London W3 8LG.

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The Governors announce TWO SCHOLARSHIPS for boys between born between 1st September 1985 and 31st August 1986

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Entry forms and details from: The Headmaster Cheam School, Headley, Newbury, Berkshire, RG15 8LD Telephone: 0635 268242 Fax: 0635 269345

Closing date for entries: 1st March, 1994

ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Governing Body of St Catherine's College invites applications from men and women for election up to three Research Fellowships, tenable without restriction as to subject, from 1 October 1994 for three years. Candidates must be graduates of a University and under thirty years of age on 1 October 1993.
The closing date for applications is 1 March 1994.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary for the Research Fellowships Competition, St Catherine's College, Cambridge CB2 1RL.

Telephone: 0223 338349

PRINCIPAL

The Principalship of Hertford College, Oxford, will become vacant on 31 July 1995 with the retirement of Sir Christopher Zeeman, F.R.S. The Chancellor of the University of Oxford will appoint the Principal, and it would assist him if any suitably qualified person who wishes to be considered, or would like to suggest the name of another person who might be considered, would write in confidence to the Chairman of the Search Committee (Dr T.C. Barnard), at Hertford College, Oxford OX1 3BW, before 31 January 1994.

Newland House School Trust Ltd
Waldegrave Park, Twickenham
Surrey TW1 4TQ 081 892 7479

Arising from retirement applications are invited for the post of **BURSAR and Secretary to the Trust** of this co-educational IAPS day preparatory school of 420 pupils. It is envisaged that the successful applicant will take up the post, which is full-time and pensionable, from June 1994. For full details of the appointment please contact the Secretary to the Trust at the School. Closing date 7th February.

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UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE

Department of Law

LECTURESHIP IN LAW

Applications are invited from suitably qualified applicants with interests in any of the major fields of law. The Department, which comprises 21 full-time members, teaches a wide range of courses, including the core subjects in English Law. It is committed to excellence in its teaching and in maintaining and improving its research standing. The essential qualifications are a good honours degree in Law and a strong commitment to teaching and research. A postgraduate degree or professional qualification is desirable but not essential. Applicants may have a background in either Scots or English Law.

Further particulars from, and applications in the form of a CV (3 copies) with the names and addresses of 3 referees to, Personnel Services, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN. Tel: (0382) 344015. Please quote reference EST/1/94/T.

Closing date: 11 February 1994.

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Mr. Anthony Millard, Headmaster, Giggleswick School, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 0DE.

Tel: 0729 823545 Fax: 0729 824187

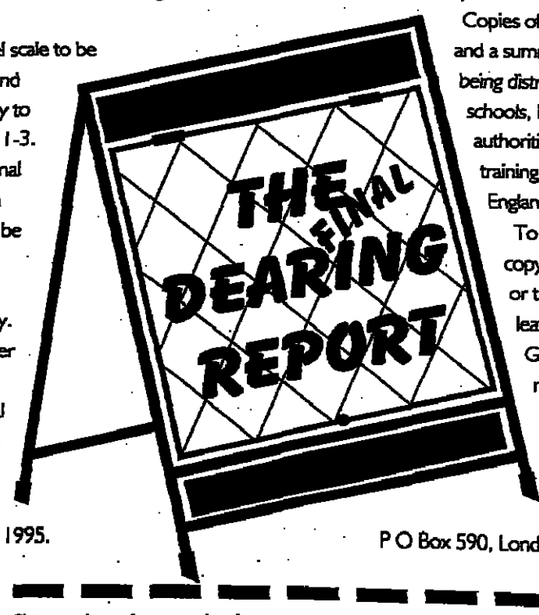
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EDUCATION

THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM: THE WAY FORWARD

Sir Ron Dearing's final report on the future of the National Curriculum and its assessment has been accepted by the Government. It charts the way forward for teaching and learning in schools in England into the next century.

- Streamline the National Curriculum to release a day a week for schools to use at their discretion.
- Increase flexibility in the curriculum for 14-16 year olds.
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- Ten-level scale to be simplified and applied only to Key Stages 1-3.
- All National Curriculum subjects to be revised together immediately.
- No further changes to the National Curriculum for 5 years after September 1995.



Copies of the report and a summary of it are being distributed to all schools, local education authorities and teacher training institutions in England.

To get your own copy of the report or the summary leaflet and the Government's response, fill in the coupon and send it to: SCAA Publications P O Box 590, London SE99 7UT.

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£19,000 plus benefits

The College is a membership organisation concerned with standards of care, training, education and examinations in the medical speciality of obstetrics and gynaecology.

The College wishes to appoint a person with excellent committee experience and the ability to manage staff effectively. Experience with computer systems together with an ability to work under pressure with attention to detail will be needed.

Excellent working conditions include flexible working hours, free lunches, BUPA, interest free season ticket loan and generous leave entitlement.

For details and an application form please telephone Kim Dawson on 071 262 5425 (no agencies please).

LOCHINVER HOUSE SCHOOL

Heath Road, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 1LW
Telephone: 0707 653064

I.A.P.S Preparatory School for 300 day boys requires a BURSAR from mid March 1994.

The Bursar is responsible to the Board of Governors through the Headmaster.

The main duties include:

- Assisting the Finance Committee with budgeting
- Controlling expenditure
- Keeping the school accounts and rendering fees
- Paying salaries and wages
- Maintaining buildings, equipment and grounds
- Overseeing catering
- A working knowledge of how to use computers is necessary.

Salary assessed on experience and qualifications. This is a Senior Appointment. The post is non residential. Further details available, from the Headmaster's Secretary, on request.

Hand written application to the Headmaster with C.V. and the names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least two referees. Closing date for application 31st January 1994.

A long list of applicants will be invited to the school for a prelimary visit, with Buffet Lunch, on Thursday, 10th February 1994.

هكذا من الأصل



THEATRE page 30
Surreal gangland: satirising the old black-and white gangster movie in Clair de Luz

ARTS

BOOKS page 31
Never disturbing: a new edition of Norma Major's authorised biography of Dame Joan Sutherland



A century after his death, Robert Louis Stevenson's stature as a writer is growing; and, right, a year of celebrations

Romantic with a wild streak

'The Teller of Tales' was more than that — he was one of the pioneers of early modernism, writes **Philip Howard**

A century ago on December 1, one of that threatened species, the Victorian "man of letters", wrote home to another of his kind, Edmund Gosse: "Come to think of it, Gosse, I believe the main distinction is that you have a family growing up around you, and I am a childless, rather bitter, very clear-eyed, blighted youth. I have, in fact, lost the path that makes it easy and natural for you to descend the hill. I am going at it straight. And where I have to go down it is a precipice." He signed it "Tusitala", or "The Teller of Tales".

That was the last letter Robert Louis Stevenson wrote. Two days later, his death from a brain haemorrhage at the age of 44, on his Vailima estate in Samoa, sent shock waves around the world. He was a cult celebrity as a Romantic with a capital "R" writer, and a personification of that passionate archetype, the Dying Wanderer.



Stevenson: a changer

His collections of that obsolete and self-conscious literary form, the *causerie*, under titles such as *Virginibus Puerisque* (taken from Horace, who else?) were widely popular. Some of his epigrams still gnash their gums: "Politics is perhaps the only profession for which no preparation is thought necessary"; "Marriage is like life in this — that it is a field of battle, and not a bed of roses."

His poems for children and jingling songs were favourites of the late Victorian parlour, though the naivety of some of them must have raised smiles even at the time. The notion of a woman washing her linen and keeping her body white "In rainfall at morning and dewfall at night" is absurd for the literal-minded, and makes even me giggle on a hard, analytical Monday. Stevenson could never write about young women successfully, though "Thrawn Janet" is spooky about the older woman.

Scots in particular thought of Stevenson as one of their national premiership (in the silly new term of soccer) bards and novelists, almost on a level with Burns and Scott. In fact, twirling to the whirligigs of literary fashion, Stevenson's supposed children's stories, such as *Treasure Island* and *Kidnapped*, have had a longer and wider shelf-life than anything of Scott's. Scott is now seen as what Stevenson described as "tushery". There are intimations of something bolder and wilder and more modern in Stevenson.

The introduction to *Treasure Island*, with the blind beggar Pugh tap-tapping his way down the street towards a lot of Yo-ho-ho, is a Superglue of an intro, one of the greatest in fiction. *Kidnapped* is a proper novel of conflicting loyalties and tensions between old and new. And then there are the letters. About these there can be conflicting opinions. My grandfather had them Morocco-bound in four volumes and gave them to me as a guide, or at any rate an inspiration, to life, as they were considered by many other middle-class, inhibited romantics of that generation. I found them *un petit peu* pretentious. So did Oscar Wilde: "Stevenson's letters most disappointing also. I see that romantic surroundings are the worst surroundings possible for a romantic writer. In Gower Street, Stevenson could have written a new *Trois Mousquetaires*. In Samoa he wrote letters to *The Times* about Germans."

His letters to our radical old organ were brave and unusual for their period. They exposed the myth of a romantic South Sea paradise, and attacked the market forces of Europe which would sacrifice anything for financial gain. They were good letters, though they achieved nothing.

Intellectuals have long disparaged Stevenson as nothing more than a magpie belletrist, poseur and writer for children. He has always been more popular with middlebrow readers than critics. But Chesterton said he picked the right word up on the point of his pen, like a man playing spillikins. Henry James declared with characteristic elusive obfuscation: "But the fact remains that the *exhibition* that has overtaken him has helped and that he is thus as an artist and creator in some degree the victim of himself."

Of course, he was part Pseud. All writers are. But he is more widely read in the 1990s than either Scott or Burns. And he is being revalued by the critics. The poems and plays have probably deservedly had it, though amateur choruses will be belting out, "Give me the life I love/ Let the lave go by me/ Give the jolly heaven above/ And the byway nigh me", for some years yet. ("Lave" is Scots for leftovers or the remainder.)

But *Travels With a Donkey in the Cevennes* remains a fugleman in the popular modern genre of travel-writing with a smile and a quirk, still managing to kick-start the best modern romantics such as Richard Holmes. *The Wrong Box* made a funny contemporary film, and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, based on the true *Sun* shock-horror story of Deacon Brodie, has become a journalist's cliché. He was more than a storyteller.

Apart from still being read, Stevenson is now being recognised even by solemn structuralists as a pioneer in the adventures of early modernism, with its ambiguities and questions. His unfinished *Weir of Hermiston*, with its assured sense of Scots period and setting, came close to a great historical novel. His anguished polemics about colonialism in paradise anticipated Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.

Apart from still providing a good read a century after his death, RLS shifted the art of fiction and saw into the heart of things. He was more than a romantic hack. He was a wild maker and changer.



Robert Louis Stevenson and household at his Samoan home, Vailima, in 1892. His letters exposed the myth of a Pacific paradise

Scotland to Samoa

Robert Louis Stevenson spent the last five years of his life in Samoa. He built his house, **Vailima**, on 314 acres of bushland at the foot of Mount Vasa, on top of which he is buried. After his death the house was enlarged and used by German and New Zealand officials until Samoan independence in 1962, when it became the official residence of the head of state. In 1992, after two cyclones had caused serious damage and funds were not available for repairs, the Robert Louis Stevenson Preservation Society was founded by three American businessmen to raise money to restore Vailima and open it as a museum.

Without losing the essence of the house that Stevenson built, turn-of-the-century plans are being used, keeping the additional wings. The 60-foot grand hall is being stripped back to the glory of its Californian redwood panelled interior; the writer's bedroom/study will be furnished with replicas of his original furniture copied from photographs. It opens on December 3.

Edinburgh, Stevenson's birthplace, will celebrate his life and works with exhibitions from June to the end of the year. The **National Library of Scotland** will explore the world of his books, including displays of manuscripts on loan from American libraries. The **City Arts Centre** exhibition, 'Jekyll or Hyde,' will examine the contrasts in the author's life using memorabilia not usually on display. The **National Museum of Scotland**'s "Treasure Islands" is focusing on Stevenson's time in the Pacific; and the **Edinburgh Filmhouse** will hold a "Jekyll and Hyde" mini season. (Information about Edinburgh events on 031-226 4531.)

In America, leading libraries have planned exhibitions. The **Beinecke Rare Books Library** at Yale, which has the major world collection of Stevenson's work, will exhibit manuscripts never seen by the public. **BBC TV** is producing a documentary of Stevenson's life and several radio programmes, readings and plays. **New Zealand TV** is also making a film. Books include biography and previously unpublished letters, as well as new editions of his works.

KAREN STEELE

TELEVISION: Channel 4's new cop show, *NYPD Blue*, breaks all the rules

Return of the nasty anti-hero

It is a risky ruse to start a new cop show by seemingly wasting one of its central cops. In Saturday's *NYPD Blue* (Channel 4), we had no sooner met and been horrified by the bloated, bitter inebriate New York detective Andy Sipowicz than blam, blam, blam, blam, blam, blam — the guy's been shot six times at point-blank range in a whore's bedroom. Not since the famous Beatles song "Hello, Goodbye" have "hello" and "goodbye" been brought into such confusing proximity.

Evidently Sipowicz will survive to play the next 22 episodes, thus reintroducing the notion of repulsive anti-hero to popular television. For the main point about *NYPD Blue* is that while it is created by Steve Bochco (co-written with David Milch), it is not *Hill Street Blues*.

Detectives John Kelly and Andy Sipowicz (David Caruso and Dennis Franz) are physically unattractive and so gritty they make your eyes sore. For another thing, it's set in New York, rather than some mythical place. And third, it is in the thrall of a highly self-conscious camera technique, which involves hand-held street shots that veer, sweep, zoom and generally give the impression of being filmed by easily distracted toddlers on roller blades.



Franz: unlovable

So, whereas *Hill Street Blues* presented the most boring collection of "two-shot" conversations in TV history — cutting monotonously between, say, Furillo's face (with the back of Joyce's head), and Joyce's face (with the back of Furillo's head) — *NYPD Blue* is so eager to offer fresh angles that sometimes you can hardly remember which way is up. Conversations are filmed in the round (instead of in the manner of a tennis match), thus involving the viewer in a contrived simulation of *vérité*. It's a surprising and exciting way to make television, and of course it signals that the other expected Newtonian laws of the detective series — the ones about good guys and bad guys, about scripts being innocent of poetry, and policemen being on the cutting edge of political correctness — have also been flushed down the john.

The American Family Association having campaigned against it, *NYPD Blue* comes to us with a bad boy reputation. There is "language" in it, and scrappy, realistic violence, and sex. The offensiveness of the language is negligible, of course, but it still comes as a shock when Sipowicz, failing to convince a courtroom that he didn't interfere with the course of justice, is reminded by his female prosecuting attorney that the thing speaks for itself. "I'd say *res ipsa loquitur*, if I thought you knew what it meant," she says, walking off. He grabs his crotch and shouts, "Hey, ipsa this, you pissy little bitch!"

Will Kelly be reconciled with his nice wife Laura ("Just because I had a hard time living with you doesn't mean I'm not having a hard time living without you")? Surely yes. And will Sipowicz emerge from his near-death experience a reformed character who blesses the miracle of each new dawn? Surely no. The fascination of watching him sit on a bar stool and swig eight shot-glasses in as many seconds was quite something. If he gets lovable, he's done for.

LYNNE TRUSS

OPERA: Handel revived in style

Go with the flow

Xerxes
Coliseum

FOR people who think they don't like Handel opera, Nicholas Hytner's production of *Xerxes* must be a revelation. Neatly revived by Julia Hollander, it is as stylish to the eye, as beguiling to the ear and as delightfully subversive of gloomy expectations as it was when it was new in the Handel tercentenary year of 1985. In an opera of near-Wagnerian length, there is not one Wagnerian longueur.

Handel himself helps — for *Xerxes* (almost his last opera before turning to oratorio) is actually very un-Handelian. Gone is his old epic style; here is an ironic tone that looks forward to *Cosi* and *Figaro*. Gone, too, are the long, repetitive arias; replaced by pithy ballads which are frequently interrupted before they finish.

That allows much more fluid interplay between characters than is usual in Handel. And Hytner — who sets the whole thing in David Fielding's deliciously surreal amalgam of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, botanical museum and toytown ancient Persia — responds with a staging that allows characters to debunk their own preposterous love tangles even as they slide deeper into them.

The ridiculous plot can, in any case, happily be ignored: Hytner provides distractions both numerous and ingenious. Scenes are played in cafés, in deckchairs, even during a game of bowls. And the sly visual gags, notably the tiny model of Xerxes's bridge over the Hellespont, seem as fresh now as they did eight years ago.

So, too, does Christopher Robson, truly a prince among operatic countertenors. His Arsamenes remains powerfully and tunefully sung, especially in his last anguished aria where, curled up on the floor, he unleashes some lacerating top notes. What a pity that, in an evening of indifferent diction, his recitative is sometimes the most indistinguishable of all.

The other star is Yvonne Kenny, deploying brilliant tone and a commanding physical presence as the much-fancied Romilda. She has the control to make Handel's florid vocal lines seem effortless.

This control eludes Louise Winter as yet, but through vocal strength and guileful stagecraft her Xerxes comes over as a splendidly absurd despot: pompous and self-important, yet utterly ineffectual in everything he attempts.

In the breeches-and-unbelievable-disguise role of Amastris, Jean Rigby does sterling service in what seems like the lower-baritone register. Mark Richardson offers a General Ariodates who could as easily be commanding the Heavy Dragoons in *Patience*; Paul Napier-Burrows makes a pleasing fist of the servant Elviro; and Nerys Jones is perky and flirty as the young but more-than-willing Atalanta.

Ivor Bolton obtains trim and idiomatic playing from the ENO orchestra, though rapport between pit and stage sometimes goes slack in slower numbers. That will surely be tightened in later performances, of which there are ten more this season.

RICHARD MORRISON

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JAZZ: From the camp to the subtle

A rare treat

Bobby Short
Café Royal
Fourth World
Ronnie Scott's

SINGER and court jester to New York's café society, **Bobby Short** is as familiar a part of Manhattan's landscape as the Chrysler Building. Woody Allen fans will recall the scene in *Hannah and her Sisters* when Allen and Dianne Wiest go out on their first date. Who does he take her to see? Bobby Short, of course. It is not a happy night: Wiest prefers sweaty punk rock and a line of cocaine.

For the past quarter of a century Short has been the prime attraction at the Café Carlyle on Madison Avenue — "one of the last places in the world," he once said, "where you can drink tea with your pinkie comfortably out".

In Britain he is little known outside a tight knot of admirers, which makes his rare visit to London — he is in residence until Saturday — even more welcome.

All manner of influences come together in his camp persona. There is the wry humour of Noël Coward, the earthiness of Fats Waller, the light touch of a Teddy Wilson and the conspiratorial chatter of a Thirties-style gossip columnist. All this is crowned by his phenomenal knowledge of popular song.

Each show is guaranteed to exhume at least half a dozen half-forgotten period pieces. On this occasion they included a lighthearted medley of vintage items inspired by the sensuous charms of pre-war Cuba. Nowhere else, I suspect, will you hear songs that dare to rhyme "dark-haired Stellas", "fellas" and "panatellas".

Working with his old partner Beverly Peer on bass and the drummer Warrren Odzy, Short found space, as ever, for a selection of Cole Porter songs, adopting his best butler's accent for "Miss Otis Regrets". His piping baritone, heavy with vibrato and a fastidious English accent, is not the world's most expressive instrument: Short converses almost as much as he sings. But any minor weaknesses are obscured by his imaginative and energetic piano accompaniment, full of dense chords and sly blues phrases.

After the exuberant Christmas shows by George Melly, Ronnie Scott's has swung into another annual fixture with the month-long residency by **Fourth World**, led by the husband and wife partnership of Airto Moreira and Flora Purim. The group's last visit produced fusion which was both powerful and extraordinarily subtle — something of a rarity in this field.

The chemistry was not quite in place on their opening night, perhaps due to simple touring fatigue. Moreira's sprawling battery of percussion instruments always makes an impression, but this time the sinuous interplay between his drums, Jose Neto's guitar and Gary Meek's keyboards and saxophone often gave way to a sequence of bombastic riffs.

First nights at Frith Street are usually deceptive, though, and by now the group may well be closer to the form it showed last year.

CLIVE DAVIS

LONDON

FATZER MATERIAL This play comprises fragments of Brecht circa 1930 about five army deserters. From Marc von Henning, known for his promotion of plays by Heiner Muller. **Gate** Pembridge Road, W11 (071-229 0706) Opens tonight 7.30pm

GANDINI JUGGLING PROJECT An unusual collaboration between jugglers Sean Gandini, Mikv Day and Lindsay Butcher a Finnish gymnast and the choreographer for the Siobhan Davies Dance Company. Much admired at last year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival it is said to be a most captivating show. London International Mime Festival. **BAC**, Lavender Hill, SW11 (071-223 2223) Tonight and tomorrow 8pm

LONDON SCHOOLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA The LSO's Stephane Gonley, the UK's youngest orchestral leader, joins the LSSO in Walton's Violin Concerto, written in 1939 for Jascha Heifetz. The programme also includes Butterworth's *A Shropshire Lad* and Glazunov's Symphony No 5. **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891) Tonight, 7.30pm

ELSEWHERE

BROMLEY: Roy Marsden (ex-Ben Foley) resumes the title role in **The Master Forger**, based on the exploits of Tom Keating. Echoes of Lovejoy as Foley looks back on his bizarre life and career, revealing the string of events that lead to his arrest and trial for fraud. **Churchill**, High Street (081-460 6677) Opens tonight, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Until Jan 22

COVENTRY The only other UK date of the retrospective of the great German-British photographer **Bill Brandt**, first exhibited last September at the Barbican in London. The show moves from his early work in Hungary and Spain to his famous Thirties pictures of life in Britain, and then to the extraordinary post-war portraits and nudes. **Mead Gallery**, Arts Centre, University of Warwick (0203 524524) Mon-Fri, 12 noon-8pm, Sat 10am-8pm. Until Feb 12. Admission free

EDINBURGH The Emperor Quartet, formed at the Royal Academy of Music in 1987, perform a newly varied programme of 18th and 20th century music including Haydn (Quartet in F Op77/2, Shostakovich (Quartet No 7) and Beethoven (Quartet in C Op59/3) **Queen's Hall**, Clerk Street (031-668 2019) Tonight, 7.45pm

LEICESTER: Find out what is up and coming from fresh young European dance companies with **International Test Branch**. Over the next two days, artists from Germany, Belgium, France, Quebec and Hungary throw their cultural characteristics into sharp relief with widely varying programmes. **Phoenix Arts Centre**, Newarke Street (0533 554854). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican *Hulton Deutsch Collection* (071-638 4141) . **British Museum**. Deities and Devotions: Hindu art. Demon of Painting: Kawanabe Kyosai (071-636 1555) . . . **Festival Hall**: Bruce Chatwin's Photographs (071-928 3002) . . **National Portrait Gallery**. The Portrait Now: Thomas Eakins (071-306 0055) . . **National Gallery**: Kan Kifi (071-839 3321) . . . **Royal Academy of Arts**. Drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum; The Unknown Modigliani (071-439 7438) **Royal College of Art**: John Minton (071-584 5020) . . **Tate**: Writing on the Wall: women artists, Turner's Vignettes (071-887 8008)

THEATRE: Start of the London Mime Festival, and nervous giggles at the Royal Court

Maid and moll in surreal gangland

Clair de Luz
ICA

LAST year, Pete Brooks's Insomniac Productions brought the London Mime Festival *L'Ascensore*, a tall tale of family betrayal in New York mafia territory. This time round, he and his group are back with a similar, perhaps too similar, piece. *Clair de Luz* is set in a hotel that would be unlikely to qualify for many AA stars, since its rooms come without the creature comforts of either beds or electric light and its staff spend their time spying on the guests, who in any case appear to consist only of one worried-looking hood and one black-petticoated moll given to occasional bouts of unexplained sobbing.

That the idea is partly to satirise gangster movies is evident before the start. The ICA's theatre has been transformed into what looks like a 1950s cinema, complete with a Wurlitzer invisibly playing period tunes and a kiosk selling a desultory selection of chocs. The stage becomes a long, thin screen that opens and closes to reveal actors in ominous poses as the introductory titles come up: "Directed by Pete Brooks" as the leading man takes off his coat to reveal a gun.

What then happens is not easy to follow nor, of course, meant to be. The hotel manager and a maid seem to be in cahoots with the moll to get Harry, as the main character is called, to go through with some unspecified hit. *Kisses are exchanged, guns produced*, sinister lines thrown casually out: "I can't tell you my name because I don't have one." All this to the accompaniment of loud staccato thumps or great melodic swoops or the sort of chants you might expect if Orff had composed a score for *The Untouchables*.

Brooks's prime strength is, in fact, to create a distinctively weird atmosphere through a mix of music and light. The stage darkens, dappled greys ripple across the walls, spots of yellow penetrate the murk at odd angles, illuminating a cheek here, a door or dirty window there. When Harry is knocked out, carried into his inky room and abstrusely tormented by quarter-visible figures, the effect is rather as if early Pinter and late Le Carré were collaborating on a piece of Grand Guignol in the middle of a power cut.

Unfortunately, the production is never so unsettling again. Hardly has Harry recovered from his obscure grilling — "Three of you escaped from that camp and only two of you made it here, so what happened to Adams?" — than the rest of the four-person cast remember they are supposed to be parodying B-movies. What look like death-throes become passionate embraces and then become death-throes again. A chase through the hotel corridors ends in an exchange of gunshots, after which the corpses get up and resume the chase. Inventiveness, if not energy, flags. A certain monotony sets in. Brooks has demonstrated his undoubted originality long enough.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER



Shades of the film noir: Tony Guilfoyle in *Clair de Luz*

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ **THE ABSENCE OF WAR** John Thaw stars in David Hare's study of the Labour Party. Brilliant, necessary, or unfair, depending on your point of view. **National** (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252) Tonight and tomorrow 7.15pm; mat Tue 2pm

□ **AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY** Felicity Kendal plays a harassed wife and Griff Rhys Jones a frantic bachelor, in Peter Hall's most enjoyable production of Feydeau's *Le Dindon*. **Globe**, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5065) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat 3pm

□ **ANOTHER SHORT HOUR** (LIMF) The well-praised Theatre du Mouvement from Paris presents 70 minutes of ingenious choreography and acrobatic skills. **Purcell Room**, South Bank Centre, SE1 (071-928 8800) Tonight 8pm

□ **CAROUSEL** Tuneful and cleverly set Rodgers and Hammerstein has the *familiar mixture of the perceptive and the maudlin*. **Shaftesbury** Shaftesbury Avenue WC2 (071-379 5399) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm mats Wed Sat, 2.30pm

■ **THE CAVALCADERS** Billy Roche's nearly-good play about the dangers of never forgetting the past. Dublin's Abbey Theatre production. **Royal Court**, Sloane Square SW1 (071-730 1745) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm mat Sat, 3.30pm. *Until Feb 5*

□ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's marvellously re-imagined version of Priestley's social thriller. **Aldwych**, Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 5pm and 8.15pm mat Wed, 2.30pm

□ **THE IRON MAN** Peter Townshend's disappointing rock opera based on Ted Hughes' modern fairytale *and nowhere near as thrilling*. **Young Vic**, 66 The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363) Mon-Sat, at various times (1.30pm, 3.30pm, 7pm)

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■ **MACBETH** Derek Jacobi and Cheryl Campbell play the hell-hound and his dame in Adrian Noble's goodish production. **Barbican**, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Tonight-Sat, 7.15pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2pm

■ **MADNESS OF GEORGE III** Nigel Hawthorne's award-winning performance of blasted, resilient monarchy. Limited performances only. **National** (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm. Final performances

□ **ME AND MAMIE O'ROURKE.** French and Saunders in wretchedly lightweight US play about lesbian fantasies. **Strand**, Aldwych, WC2 (071-930 8800). Mon-Thurs 8pm Fri, Sat 6pm and 8.45pm

◪ **MERRY WIVES** Barry Rutter brings his Northern Broadsides company - "launched as a vehicle for the Northern Voice" - down south for a rumbustious version of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. **Lyric**, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 2311) Mon-Sat 7.45pm. Final week of performances

□ **OLEANNA:** Denis Lawson and Michelle Farley have taken over the leads in Mamet's tale of power, politics and punishment at an American university. **Duke of York's**, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

□ **PIAF.** Elaine Page in powerful voice as the Parisian sparrow. The play itself is rather less than marvellous. **Piccadilly**, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed (Lorraine Brunning) and Sat 3pm

□ **RELATIVE VALUES** Susan Hampshire, Alison Fiske and Sarah Brightman head a strong cast in Coward's snobbish but clever comedy. Tim Luscombe directs. **Savoy**, Strand, WC2 (071-836 8888). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

□ **SUICIDE & MANIPULATION:** The initials are S & M and the subject is damaged lives but the setting is the "rarified world of the super-famous and the fabulously fashionable". By the author of *Tango 'til You're Sore*. **Finborough**, 118 Finborough Road, SW10 (071-373 3842) Mon-Sat, 8pm Till Jan 29.

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (071-867 1044) . □ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) . ◪ **Cats**: New London (071-405 0072) . . □ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (071-734 8951) . . □ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (071-494 5070) . . . □ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric (071-494 5045) . ■ **Grease**: Dominion (071-580 9845) . . □ **Hot Stuff**: Cambridge (071-494 5040) . . . ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (071-434 0909) . . . □ **Miss Saigon**: Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (071-494 5400) . . □ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (071-836 1443) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) . . . □ **StarlIght Express**: Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi Theatre (071-344 0055) . . □ **Travels With My Aunt**: Whitehall (071-867 1119) . . □ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by The Society of London Theatre

Past betrayals of a brain-fried squaddy

Penetrator
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court

THE warning lesson suggested by Anthony Neilson's drama, first seen at the Traverse in Edinburgh and then at the Finborough, is that on no account should any young man volunteer to join the army. If he fancies the idea of killing, likes the look of a spreading bloodstain, dreams of rape and all varieties of thuggery and buggery, the army is going to provide him with these heady thrills — but unfortunately it will also fry his brains.

Tadge, the brain-fried squaddy, is first seen waiting to hitch a lift back to Scotland. James Cunningham's motionless stance and the cold stare from his deeply shadowed eye-sockets mark him at once as a figure any sane motorist would break the speed limit to avoid. The cacophonous roar of heavy metal indicates the turbulent mind within the steely posture. But gradually an even more alarming sound intrudes as we hear a coldly anatomical description of sexual encounter spoken in slow, unforgiving, guttural tones.

This stuff turns out to be the masturbation fantasy of Max, the childhood mate for whose sake Tadge is returning to Edinburgh. The rest of this 90-minute (no interval) play takes place in the grubby flat Max shares with Alan. Max, played by Neilson himself, who also directs, appears to be heterosexual but his sour humour generally leads to a misogynistic outburst, or to a sneer at the less aggressively masculine Alan.

When Tadge arrives, the scene is set for a dangerous game of revenge for past betrayals, chief of which appears at first to be the belief he has been gang-raped by a group he calls the Penetrators. Who knows what reality lies behind this? Has his mind been rotted by the sex videos he watched in Germany, or school experience of sadomasochism?

Alan, well-played by Alan Francis, reacts with alarm tempered by embarrassment; Max with a placatory consideration that does not, in these circumstances, come across as a sufficiently virile response. A knife with a foot-long blade is brought into the action and generates a fair degree of alarm. Cunningham's performance is terrific in the way he suggests the bleak ferocity of paranoia.

Yet all this awfulness becomes less and less substantial. In his last play (*Normal: The Dusseldorf Ripper*, also concerned with the allure of bloody sex), Neilson showed how well he can screw up the tension of a scene. But this work provoked the nervous giggles of disbelief. And its final return to boyhood camaraderie, though credible, is curtailed and curiously flat.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERTS: Outstanding young performers tackle varied and ambitious programmes of modern music

Fast-track to adventure

PLG Young Artists
Purcell Room

FOURTEEN pieces in two-and-a-half hours, all but one newly or recently composed: that was asking a lot of listeners' concentration in another pair of concerts in the Park Lane Group series featuring specially chosen young artists. Especially as the evening's second programme had the unusual alternation of cello and saxophone.

Kay Bywater from Guildford is a fluent instrumentalist who can tame even a soprano saxophone to her command of multiphonic technique, but who sounded more at ease with the less raucous alto sax. Her relish of the tonal contrasts in Nicola LeFanu's microtonal *Ervallagh* (a PLG commission for her, given its first performance), was a delight. It distilled impressions of a Connemara location, and was complemented by Elaine Agnew's easy-flowing mood-picture of *Ballynaughan*.

Here the saxophonist was joined by Marcus Tilt at the piano, as she also was to vivid purpose in the graphically colourful *Pythikos Nomos*, an illustrative myth about Apollo by Brian Elias. There was little either player could do to give substance to the magnified doodles of Michael Nyman's *Shaping the Curve*, or Bywater alone to make the fractured subject-matter of the South African-born Michael Rosenzweig's *Solo* hang together in its first performance.

Sharing this programme was another South African, the cellist **Liam Abramson**. She gave evidence of a *talent still raw around the edges but* capable of far-going extension, notably in the *Three Enigmas* by Colin Matthews, with their thoughtful exchange and integration of ideas between the cello and a responsive piano partner, **Charles Wiffen**.

The cello's tonal range was further explored unaccompanied in Elias's *Of Elutropia*, but the almost Brahmsian rapture of Kurt Weill's youthful Cello Sonata overloaded an already long programme, besides being a misfit in this context.

At the early evening programme the Japanese **Mieko Kanno** picked a fascinating assortment of five pieces to *illustrate the diversity of contemporary* violin writing. She ranged confidently from the seesaw effects of dynamics and phrasing in the unaccompanied *Del Cuarto Elemento* by James Dillon, to something like a conversation with herself in the eloquently gestural *Fantasia* by David Blake, both these pieces played from memory with supreme assurance.

In the first performance of *Rounds* by Gavin Thomas, the violinist deployed a bold, assertive vehemence in relentlessly loud writing. She was joined by the pianist **Catherine Laws** in tracing the longer lines of Toru Takemitsu's evocative *Hika* (Japanese for "elegy"), and in the eupeptically demanding *Fantasia* by Elias, where the piano seemed like an extra limb to the violin in communicating a dazzling but also subtle virtuosity.

NOEL GOODWIN

NEW RELEASES

◆ **FRIENDS** (15) Female friendships in turbulent Johannesburg. Wormy, flawed drama from writer-director Elaine Proctor, with Kerry Fox. **Metro** (071-437 0757) **MGMs Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148)

◆ **HEAR NO EVIL** (15) Unpleasant potboiler with Marlee Matlin as a deaf damsel in distress. With D B Sweeney, Mann Sheen, Robert Greenwald directs. **MGMs Fulham Road** ◪ (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343)

THE NORTHERNERS (15) Obsessions and secrets of an abandoned housing estate. Deadpan Dutch satire from talented director Alex van Warmerdam. **MGM Piccadilly** (071-437 3561)

PROVIDENCE (15) Alain Resnais's elegant enigma of 1977, with John Gielgud as the dying writer weaving his family (Dirk Bogarde and others) into his fiction. **Everyman** ◪ (071-435 1525) **MGM Swiss Centre** (071-439 4470)

STRANGER THAN PARADISE (15) Laconic tale of the American dream. Jim Jarmusch's first feature, still bracing today. With John Lurie, Eszter Balint. **Renoir** (071-837 8402)

◆ **UNDERCOVER BLUES** (12) Pointless, dull comedy thriller with Dennis Quaid and Kathleen Turner spying with baby in tow. Director, Herbert Ross. **Plaza** ◪ (0800 383397) **MGMs Fulham Road** ◪ (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **ADDAMS FAMILY VALUES** (PG) A new baby causes chaos in America's most macabre household. Overblown sequel, with good stretches. With Raul Julia and Anjelica Huston, director, Barry Sonnenfeld. **Empire** (0800 888911) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

◆ **ANOTHER STAKEOUT** (PG) Return visit of Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez's bantering cop comedy and action for the easily pleased. Director, John Badham. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

◆ **CARLITO'S WAY** (18) Can Al Pacino's gangster go straight? Lively ethnic-tinged drama from Brian De Palma, with Sean Penn. **Empire** (0800 888911) **MGMs Fulham Road** ◪ (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

CENTURY (15) Stephen Poliakoff's muddled dissection of science and morality, in turn-of-the-century London. With Clive Owen, Charles Dance, Miranda Richardson. **Camden Plaza** (071-485 2443) **Odeons: Haymarket** (0426 915353) **Kensington** (0426 914666)

◆ **FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE** (15) Chen Kaige's Cannes prizewinner a bumper bundle of dazzling visuals, Peking Opera and Chinese history. With Leslie Cheung and Gong Li. **Barbican** ◪ (071-638 8891) **Chelsea Cinema** (071-351 3742) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen/HMI** (071-435 3366)

MAC (18) Refreshing, old-fashioned salute to the common man from actor, co-writer and director John Turturro. **MGM Panton Street** (071-930 0631)

◆ **MALICE** (15) Alec Baldwin's hot-shot doctor shatters Nicole Kidman and Bill Pullman's domestic bliss. Shallow, serpentine and stupefying thriller; director, Harold Becker. **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Marble Arch** (0426-914 501) **Swiss Cottage** (071-586 3057) **West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

◆ **A PERFECT WORLD** (15) Kevin Costner's criminal on the run with a kidnapped child, and Clint Eastwood in pursuit. Thoughtful if overstretched drama; Eastwood also directs. **Barbican** ◪ (071-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Trocadero** ◪ (071-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** ◪ (071-727 6705) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **Warner** ◪ (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (071-792 3332)

◆ **ROBIN HOOD: MEN IN TIGHTS** (PG) An unfunny, outdated Sherwood Forest spoof from Mel Brooks. **MGMs: Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Panton Street** (071-930 0631) **Odeons: Mezzanine** ◪ (0426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914098)

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

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James Naughtie on a new edition of the life of 'La Stupenda' by Norma Major, whose husband was little known when it appeared seven years ago

Premier life of a stupendous subject



For her fans, Joan Sutherland will always be incomparable

JOAN SUTHERLAND
The Authorised Biography
By Norma Major
Little, Brown, £12.99

Prime ministerial wives, and the one husband, have not been notable authors and hardly amount to a literary circle, so Norma Major can escape easy comparisons that have nothing to do with her book. She is spared an appearance in some gallery of Aunt Sallies, the bored consorts who whiled away the hours with their enthusiasms. It will not stop her, however, being a snobs' target.

The first reason is that her biography of La Stupenda makes no claim to be what it isn't. Joan Sutherland and her husband Richard Bonynge told their story and shared their memories with their friend and the tale is therefore calm and never disturbing, proceeding from one standing ovation to the next with only minor interruptions. The detail is meticulous — if you want to know the date when she didn't sing the top E flat at the end of Lucia's mad scene and said "Not today" as she fell backwards, it is here. Just as determined is the avoidance of real character study.

There is plenty of texture to the story of the rise of a star, and her many years in the firmament, but the nature of the woman is always secondary to the account of the operatic whirligig. She races from Sydney to Covent Garden to the Met to La Scala (paying the going rate in the 1960s of 30,000 lire to the claque only through splendidly gritted teeth), and the careful record is the point of the book. It is an invaluable source of information about Sutherland's career.

Yet that, despite the mine of detail, will not stop it seeming to some a canary-fancier's book, too strong on enthusiasm and too thin on criticism. That is a pity. Just because there are, as with any great singer, "Sutherland fans" who swoon at the thought of her in her prime, the straight story should not be thought a bore.

How could it be? From the gawky girl who smothered her voice in church because people turned their heads, to the giant of opera stages around the world, this is the account of a career of such style that it is simply something to revel in. Her stardom, spluttering into life in the early 1950s, coincided with the birth of jet-age opera and her life across the continents was to be the one that would embrace (and sometimes engulf) generations of the greatest singers to come.

Performance is always the thing. Alongside the cerebral critics — and inside the best of them — are the anonymous footsoldiers of opera, longing to sigh or to cheer at a moment of special excitement or beauty. Opera turns on these risky moments: they were the thrills that Sutherland could engineer at will with one high swoop and a dreamy trill in the vocal territory where some feared to venture. So a celebration of that career is right.

The authorisation by Sutherland-Bonynge clearly means that certain matters are kept in check, for example the irritation caused when she first began to insist that she and her husband were a team, even in opera houses where Bonynge wasn't wanted in the pit. The author does not, happily, try to set herself up as a critic. As an account of why the career developed as it did, and how critics were swept up in it, it is complete.

And what of the relationship between author and subject? Clearly there is a star and there is a fan, but something more too. This book was written, I suspect, partly because the fan found kinship with the star who shared her liking for straightforwardness, even bluntness, and a notable unstuffiness. Sutherland is a telling subject for this author.

And there is one important related point. Those who think this book is something of a stunt, a helpful gloss on life at No 10, are quite wrong. Save for a short postscript it was written (and first published) in 1987. And outside Westminster in those days the few people who had heard of John Major were perhaps less likely to say that he was the next Prime Minister than that he was married to someone who had written a book on Joan Sutherland.

Wallpaper of the gods

Katherine Bergen

EDOUARD VUILLARD
Painter-Decorator
By Gloria Groom
Yale University Press, £39.95

Edouard Vuillard is popularly known for the small easel paintings depicting everyday domestic scenes which have earned him the appellation "*intimiste*". In her biography, however, Gloria Groom has explored the 50 or so large-scale decorative works of the period 1892-1912, a less well-known but important area of his work.

The third annual Salon d'Automne in Paris in 1905 looked like a *volte face* for Vuillard. He was well known to the Parisian avant-garde for his small-scale domestic scenes and colour lithographs. His work as a *peintre-décorateur* remained unknown outside a small group of collectors. (Indeed, it was not until 1929 that the state made its first purchase of these larger works.) The six large-scale *panneaux décoratifs* entitled *Figures in an Interior* and *Figures in a landscape*, exhibited in 1905, were actually the cumulation of the previous decade's work.

Born in 1868, Vuillard entered first the Académie Julia, then the École des Beaux-Arts in 1887. He joined a group of artists the following year led by Paul Sérusier. Choosing Gauguin as their mentor, the group called themselves the "Nabis", after the Hebrew word for prophets. They devised a secret language and nicknames; they were young, single and predominantly Catholic.

The principal aim of the Nabis was to have decorative painting accepted as part of a modern aesthetic and, in particular, the art nouveau movement. They intended to achieve this, as Groom puts it, "by distorting, flattening out or losing the subject in patterns... to distance it from the real world, thus serving the anti-naturalistic intent, while at the same time increasing the decorative effect". This is what took Vuillard beyond easel painting. The new theory of artistic expression suggested larger surfaces and unconventional formats beyond the usual conventions of size and shape.

Drawing on his patrons' archives and memoirs, and on interviews with their surviving family members, as well as on Vuillard's own private journals, Groom describes in great detail the small group of collectors who were to commission these works. Alexandre and Thadée Natanson were editors of *Le Revue Blanche*, a symbolist journal and the Nabis' unofficial organ. Thadée practically became Vuillard's agent, recommending his work to friends and relatives.

The Desmarais were cousins of the Natansons and commissioned Vuillard's first decorative paintings for a private house, showing women in country houses, workshops and parks. Aurélien Luguè-Poe commissioned Vuillard to paint several sets for his company Théâtre de L'Oeuvre. Other patrons included the Romanian Princes Emmanuel and Antoine Bibesco, the playwright Henry Bernstein and the American heiress Marguerite Chapin.

Groom is interesting on the "site-specific" nature of Vuillard's work. This is not easy to determine, as many of his decorative panels have been separated from the interiors they were intended to adorn. The paintings themselves have not always survived intact — the *à la colle* method of painting with distemper caused the paint to flake off the canvas. But Groom is convinced that they did relate to a particular interior and, very often, its inhabitants. Vuillard emerges from this fine biography as much more than the familiar *intimiste*. His creative vision far exceeded the easel works for which he is justly famous, and his monumental paintings can be seen as a novel kind of interior décor.



The Luncheon at Vasouy 1901 (left half) painted for Swiss journalist Jean Schopfer. Vuillard's staccato brushstrokes and distemper technique render his monumental scenes almost abstract at close range, with an effect resembling the tapestries that inspired him

PAPERBACKS

THE VILLAGE OF LONGING
By George O'Brien
Blackstaff Press, £5.95

O'BRIEN grew up in Lismore in County Waterford, and in this memoir he recreates the Fifties world of his childhood in that place of dashed hopes and unfulfilled potential, where most of the male population was out of work, and the only weapon against hardship was humour. This is a wonderful account of a boy growing up — poetic, funny and unsentimental, written with the entirely individual voice so necessary but so rare in an autobiographer.

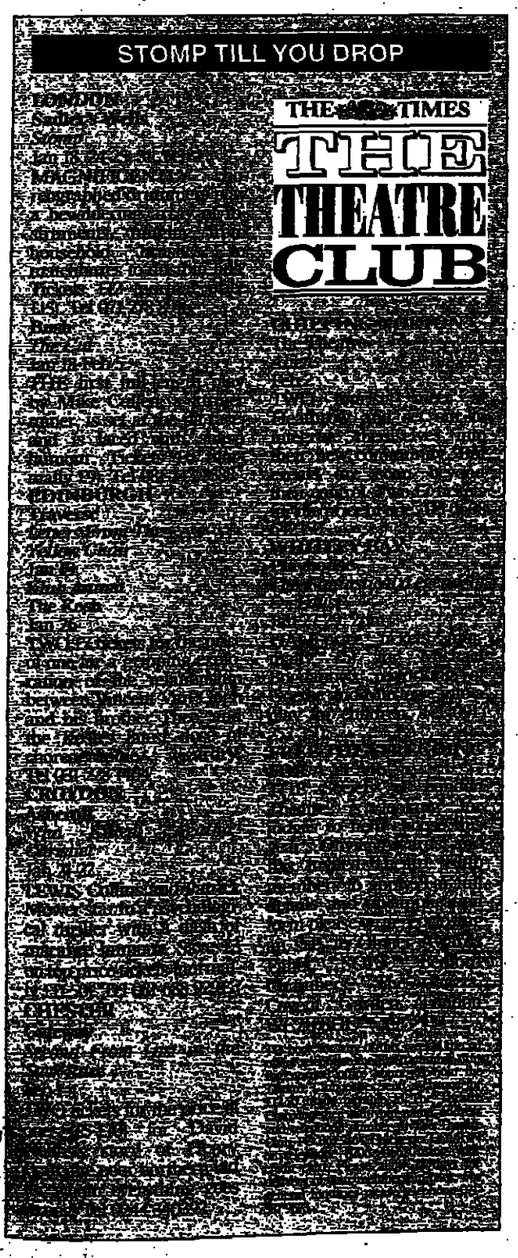
THE RAILWAY STATION MAN
By Jennifer Johnston
Penguin £5.99

A SOLITARY widowed painter and a scarred war hero meet on the north-west coast of Ireland, where she has taken a cottage and he the railway station house. Johnston at her finest, exploring the underside of love. Landscape, weather and a troubled son are also powerful characters, but this is Ireland, and it is politics which give the novel its arbitrary and unbearable wrench from happiness.

THE CELIBATE
By Michael Arditi
Sinclair Stevenson, £6.99

MUCH-PRAISED first novel explores not unfamiliar territory of the struggle to reconcile Anglican guilt with homosexual desire. Ordinand narrator breaks down under the strain and conducts tours of Jack the Ripper's London, drawing parallels with his own anguished underworld degradation. AIDS and the Plague also make a neat package. An overcrowded, full-circle trip round the idea of God, narrated to tourist and therapist, the book addresses important issues — pain, purification by love — but keeps only just this side of melodrama, particularly towards the end. We did not need the uncle, too.

● *Contributors: Hazel Leslie, Sue Gee*



Back to religious basics

Julia Neuberger

THE REVENGE OF GOD
The resurgence of Islam, Christianity and Judaism in the modern world
By Gilles Kepel
Polity, £39.50/£11.95pbk

ANGELS
An endangered species
By Malcolm Godwin
Boxtree, £16.99

Kepel's *Revenge of God* denotes the resurgence of the three monotheistic "religions of the book". He examines the history of the rebirth of political Islam, politically conservative Christianity and "born again" Judaism, and tries to draw some parallels between the three.

His main thesis is that much of the resurgence is imposed from above, by those interested in political power. What makes it interesting, and highly dangerous, is that just as it is being imposed "from above", it also manifests itself "from below" in the views, wishes and sensitivities of a newly urbanised, newly educated, hitherto poverty-stricken class.

So, to take Egypt as an example, with the Muslim Brotherhood as the rising neo-Islamicists, there was already an avowedly Muslim ruler in Gamal Nasser. He had learned much of his thinking from the Muslim Brothers earlier in life, but in the 1950s he turned on them, and persecuted them with unbridled ferocity, as "the last obstacle to his autocratic government". He had also "reformed" the Islamic university of Al Azhar in 1964, in order to turn its graduates into "transmission belts" for his ideology.

But the Muslim Brothers never disappeared. Their message was one of uncompromising adherence to Muslim law and Muslim ways. They were appalled by the apparent westernisation of Egyptian society, and, after the defeats of 1967 and 1973 at the hands of Israel, increasingly ready to attack the weakness of the government's political position. National pride was low. Nasser's Egypt was a mess. Islam held out a promise of order, belief in self and community, and a strength modernism did not have.

So both from above and below the pressure grew. It did the same in Judaism, particularly in Israel, with the defeat of the old Labour coalition in 1977, and its replacement by the religious Zionists of Menachem Begin. Here was a belief in ownership of "Biblical Judea and Samaria", irrespective of a move to the ascendancy of religious conservatism, and powerful changes are afoot. The sum of these parts is the beginning of a picture in all three faiths that forms a pattern.

Part of this no doubt stems from increasing suspicion of the doctrine of individualism so prized by the West, and a delight in a communal view of the world (communitarianism), an element which Kepel fails to make entirely clear. There is also an increasing tiredness about the western view of democracy and capitalism, particularly in its failure to help the poor.

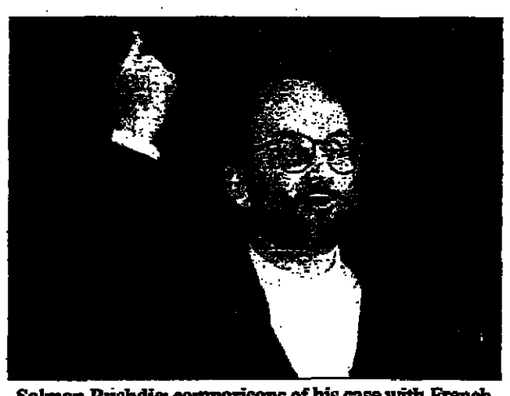
Kepel also illustrates the ability of all three groups to change history to suit their beliefs and their political ambitions. He cites Archbishop Lustiger of Paris, for instance, the man who believed rationalism was the cause of Stalinism and Nazism, and who, though born a Jew, saw no Christian anti-Semitic ideas in the road that led to the Holocaust.

He also examines the Rushdie affair, but provides a mistaken analysis of Britain in comparison with France. Rooted in French political thought, he fails to see the importance of the established church in Britain, the role the voluntary sector plays in British society, and the fact that we have state-funded sectarian education, though not yet for Muslims. His analysis, therefore, of attitudes to Muslims in Britain is incorrect, and his parallels drawn with the prohibition on Muslim girls wearing the veil in school in France mistaken.

This apart, Kepel has much to say that is extremely interesting, some of it building on the remarkable foundation set by Ernest Gellner in his *Postmodernism, Reason and Religion*. Despite an unmitigating Frenchness of tone and terminology, this is an important contribution to background knowledge, for those seriously interested in what the new religious vigour is about — as we all should be — without answering the question of why the change happened in the mid-1970s.

Important is not an adjective one would apply to Malcolm Godwin's *Angels*. It has rarely been my misfortune to read a book so beautifully illustrated with so many mistakes within it, as well as unfounded assertions, and forays into the fanciful and esoteric without knowledge of basic texts. He suggests, for instance, that all religions, citing Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Judaism, divide the world into heaven, earth and hell. Judaism certainly does no such thing until the rabbinic period, and even then ideas of hell are distinctly limited. He states baldly that the Essenes, the Dead Sea Scrolls sect of the period of Jesus, date from the period of Moses, for which there is no evidence whatsoever.

There are countless examples. A decent volume on angels is long overdue; it could be both enlightening and fun. But this is not it.



Salman Rushdie: comparisons of his case with French handling of Islamic fundamentalism are misleading

"Some men are saying they are afraid even to look at a child these days."

Have the stranger-danger messages gone too far? **The TES** looks at a new government video.

OUT FRIDAY 21

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Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began today. Dealings end January 28. §Contango day January 31. Settlement day February 7. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	W/dy +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
6,817.20	Abbey Nil	530	+30	11.8	2.8	20.1
2,014.40	Allied Irish	306	– 6	...	3.4	15.6
3,883.40	Ann Kev 2	231½	+10½	...	3.9	∞
11,465.40	Bankamerica	3225	+100	...	...	...
1,463.00	Bk of Ireland	311	– 4	...	4.0	22.9
29.60	Bk Leumi UK	375	...	17.0	3.7	...
2,566.80	Bank Scotland	221	– 2	4.6	2.6	30.0
9,732.00	Barclays	600	–19	...	2.6	...
11.10	Carlisle	36½	+ 8½	...	...	...
150.90	Chief Allen	626	+ 8	25.0	5.0	...
193.70	Cattles	175	...	...	3.2	23.5
4,223.00	Chase Manh	2300	...	...	...	...
10,354.80	Citicorp	3731½	+243½	...	...	...
268.00	Close Bros	550	+17	...	2.5	20.0
4,282.10	Commerzbk	1144½	–781½	...	2.8	...
15,308.50	Deutsche Bk	£721½	–1584½	...	1.9	...
122.60	First Nat Fin	75	+11	1.5	2.5	∞
34,998.60	Fuji Bank Y	1298½	+27½	...	0.4	...
192.40	Gerrard Nat	492	+ 9	21.5	5.5	13.1
7,478.30	HSBC	911	– 6	20.0	2.7	21.8
15,806.80	HSBC FR	926	+10	20.0	2.7	22.2
716.90	Hambros	408	+19	14.3	4.4	18.4
22.50	Joseph (L)	428	+10	16.7	4.9	...
81.30	King Shaxson	135	+ 1	9.0	8.3	...
810.40	Kleinwort Ben	613	+22	16.7	3.4	21.3
7,999.30	Lloyds	623	+11	19.1	3.8	17.8
58.00	Lon Scot Bk	96	...	2.6	3.8	19.0
7,509.80	Nat Aust Bk	577½	– 1½	...	4.8	∞
9,872.30	Nat West	564	–21	17.8	3.7	36.1
676.50	Provident	508	+40	12.4	3.1	21.9
25.10	Rea Bros	94	+ 2	0.5	1.1	68.0
3,580.90	Rvl Bk Scot	451 †	–14	...	3.0	20.4
1,378.70	Schroders	1365	– 3	...	1.1	27.2
2,781.40	Stand Chart	1168	–43	20.5	2.2	...
4,068.20	TSB	368	+14	...	3.6	20.7
31.70	Union Disc	1627	+ 1	...	...	...
2,072.20	Warburg SG	955	– 8	...	2.6	14.0
4,871.60	Wells Fargo	8793½	+181½	...	2.3	...
3,804.50	Westpac	217 †	+10	...	2.5	∞
26.60	Wintrust	314	+ 1	9.3	3.7	28.1

BREWERIES

5,752.10	Allied-Lyons	640 †	–20	...	4.1	18.0
5,008.40	Bass	577 †	–11	...	4.3	15.6
330.00	Boddington	274	– 6	7.5	3.4	16.0
399.50	Bulmer (HP)	399 †	– 6	...	3.3	16.0
37.60	Burtonwd Brw	181 †	– 3	4.7	3.3	15.1
32.40	Eldridge P 'A'	168 †	+14	3.5	...	...
1,994.20	Fgrs Brewing	62	+ 2	0.5	1.1	68.0
69.70	Fullr Sm 'A'	442 †	+ 7	7.5	2.1	18.9
10,203.00	Grand Met	491	+ 7	...	3.8	16.2
983.00	Greenalls Grp	471 †	+10	...	3.3	16.2
731.40	Greene King	571	+ 7	...	2.8	15.3
9,527.40	Guinness	474	–15	...	3.2	17.7
8.30	Halkin Hldgs	71	– 2	...	...	55.4
62.20	Hardy Hanson	248	+ 8	8.5	4.4	...
3.43	Hawthrne	45	+ 2½	3.0	2.8	22.2
497.50	Highland Dist	393	+3p	...	2.1	18.5
94.50	Hol J	3150	...	42.0	1.7	30.5
383.80	Invrgordn Dist	301	...	...	2.9	17.2
150.30	Macallan-Glen	156	+ 4	4.3	4.2	20.0
59.80	Macdn Harvn 'A'	54	+ 5	...	2.5	21.0
151.00	Mansfield	236	– 8	...	2.1	16.9
250.10	Mrston Thmp	276 †	– 3	...	2.5	15.4
135.50	Matthew Clark	388	+12	...	3.9	19.4
28.30	Mrydwn W	252 †	– 3	7.0	3.8	20.8
1,014.00	Morland	530 †	+15	...	2.8	19.8
5.15	Paramount A	109	...	...	1.8	18.5
33.30	Regent Inns	227	– 3	...	2.6	23.1
7,297.30	SA Breweries	1350	+150	...	2.0	22.1
2,983.90	Scot & Newc	563 †	+18	...	3.8	17.2
188.00	Taunton Cider	172 †	– 1	6.2	4.5	13.4
398.30	Vaux Group	281 †	+13	...	4.2	15.1
114.00	Wetherspoon JD	394	+17	...	1.9	28.3
2,948.40	Whitbread 'A'	987	– 7	...	4.0	13.6
362.80	Wolvrhmptn D	548 †	+21	12.6	3.9	∞
15.10	Young 'A'	520	+10	14.7	3.5	21.5

BUILDING, ROADS

70.90	Abbey	183	+ 3	...	1.4	29.7
13.00	Albrighton A	18 †	+ ½	...	0.7	...
42.80	Alien A	160 †	+ 7	...	3.9	30.3
250.70	Amec	124	– 6	3.0	3.0	22.9
3.14	Angela Sec	99	...	...	...	...
107.70	Ashtead A	359	+10	...	1.6	38.0
376.00	Atwoods	133 †	– 5	...	4.7	...
1,662.20	BPB Ind	334 †	–13	...	2.8	40.0
41.30	Baggeridge Brk	104 †	+ 6	3.1	3.0	∞
3.34	Bailey (Hen) Con	32	+ ½	0.6	2.3	...
14.30	Barcrom	77 †	– 5	3.0	4.8	∞
285.10	Bardon	514	+ 2	20	4.9	25.4
451.00	Barratt Devs	328	– 2	...	2.1	25.6
249.50	Bellway	507 †	+ 6	12.0	3.0	∞
23.70	Bellwtrich	54	+ 3	...	...	...
404.20	Berkeley Gp	527 †	–14	...	1.5	28.4
17.70	Bett Bros	118 †	...	...	2.1	15.2
15.60	Blockleys	61	+ 3	1.0	3.0	67.4
2,532.70	Blue Circle	396	+24	...	3.8	...
75.80	Boot (Henry)	284	+ 4	6.0	2.6	15.9
29.60	Bredero PLC	104	+ 2	6.6	5.5	25.6
23.00	Br Dredging	134	+ 1	5.2	4.9	29.7
19.10	Brit Fittings	80	+ 2	1.7	1.7	...
488.90	Bryant	177	+ 4	...	3.4	35.7
49.60	CALA	141	+ 3	...	2.0	...
1,321.40	CRH	377	+ 6	...	2.3	20.7
2.10	Calderbread Rby	35	...	...	...	...
170.40	Costain	33	+ ½	...	...	...
127.40	Countryside	167	– 2	...	3.1	∞
78.80	Crest Nicholson	103	– 2	0.0	...	...
19.80	Cussins	111	+ 6½	...	1.1	...
13.20	Edmund Hldgs	25	+ 4½	0.3	1.5	...
54.40	Egerin	276	...	7.0	3.2	23.4
28.30	Erith	60	+ 2	0.3	0.7	...
43.60	Eve Group A	458	+18	...	2.8	17.2
13.70	Freeman Gps	198	+20	5.0	2.2	31.5
42.60	Galliford	98	+ 6	...	2.6	...
1.51	Gibbs & Dandy	67	...	...	2.9	...
92.90	Gleeson (M J)	920	+ 7	...	1.7	16.0
354.30	Hewden-Stuart	153	+ 8	...	2.2	33.2
4.05	Heywood	47	...	...	2.1	34.3
398.30	Heywd Wlm	426	+ 3	13.0	4.0	...
59.80	Higgs & Hill	136	– 2	2.5	2.3	...
12.40	How Gp	30	+ 2½	...	4.7	...
6.40	Howard Hldgs	20	...	0.5	2.5	...
212.80	Ibstock Johnsen	85	– 1	1.0	1.5	...
11.20	Jarvis	16½	– ½	...	...	...
150.70	Laing (J)	329	+ 9	9.0	3.4	13.2
52.00	-dn- 6.4% Cv Pf	129½	+ 4	...	6.2	50.8
12.20	Ln Clydesdale A	135	+10	4.5	4.2	50.8
9.57	Lovell (D)	114	– ½	...	...	5.2
148.90	Manders	398	...	9.3	2.9	24.4
562.10	Marley	398	+ 4	4.2	2.7	58.1
165.60	Marshalls	136 †	– 1	...	3.7	...
55.10	Maunders (J)	223	+ 3	...	2.9	21.5
148.00	Mcalpine (A)	262	+ 2	6.5	3.1	45.4
34.60	McCarthy & S	95	– 7	0.5	1.1	...
668.50	Meyer Int	535 †	+ 5	...	1.1	53.8
164.40	Mowlem (J)	147	+11	4.0	3.4	...
29.80	NSM	174	– 9	...	...	...
9.01	Needler A	48	...	...	3.7	22.4
223.30	Newman Tnks	185	+ 8	...	4.5	24.7
928.00	Persimmon	533	+18	8.6	3.2	34.0
3.28	Phoenix Timber	14	+ 5	...	...	...
18.20	Prchins	1750	...	29.0	2.1	25.0
144.20	Pruning	186	...	3.4	2.3	...
2,023.20	RMC Gp	1027	+36	...	3.5	38.6
180.30	Ratne Ind	96	+ ½	...	3.9	22.7
2.60	Ramsus	23	– 2	...	...	...
3,085.70	Redland	598	–10	25.0	5.2	34.8
10.80	Rosket	72	– 2	4.3	7.5	10.6
934.70	Rugby Group	319	+16	6.4	2.5	24.4
9.09	Svrkld-Rvrs	58	...	...	0.5	...
34.10	Sharpe & Fisher	165	...	...	3.0	28.7
186.30	Sheffield Insl	255	–15	...	2.6	62.6
27.10	Sheriff Hldgs A	258 †	...	...	3.5	15.4
3.04	Shrpe Fshr	106	+10	5.2	5.1	48.1
23.00	Smart Gl	228	...	...	4.7	17.2
10.90	Stanmin	3½	+ ½	...	...	...
1,726.40	Tarmac	188	– 6	5.5	3.7	...
62.20	Tay Homes	213	– 2	...	3.4	28.3
647.70	Taylor Woodrw	155	– 9	1.0	0.8	...
218.00	Tilbury Dougls	645	+ 2	33.0	6.4	21.0
4.37	Torex Hires	43	+ 1	0.4	1.2	...
328.00	Travis Perkins	331	+10	8.0	3.0	58.3
4.12	Trenchermwood	16½	...	...	...	...
13.80	Try Group	32	+ 1	1.0	3.9	9.1
2.30	Tsdcr	21	...	0.2	1.5	...
89.50	Uttoxeter	101	+ ½	2.5	3.1	36.3
28.40	Ward Hldgs	28	+ 1	...	...	...
0.82	Waterhouse	33	...	...	...	...
94.00	Wates Blake	455	...	...	3.3	19.6
7.11	Westdale	23	...	...	...	...
135.00	Westbury	203	+ 3	5.0	3.1	31.7
19.00	Wiggins	4½	...	...	...	...
472.00	Wilson Bowdn	507	– 2	...	2.2	35.7
439.60	Wilson (C)	225	– 2	3.9	2.1	40.2
767.30	Wimpey G	210	+15	...	2.7	...
3.70	YRM	28	...	0.5	2.2	...

BUSINESS SERVICES

558.10	ADT	318	– 5	...	...	...
14.00	Adam & Harvey	158	...	13.0	5.0	6.0
6.63	Air London A	68	...	3.5	9.4	12.1
3.10	African Lakes	44	...	2.0	5.7	...
161.60	Auto Sec	138	+ 1	...	3.5	24.7
1,415.30	BET Ord	191½	+ 3½	...	1.9	n/f
32.60	BNB Res	126	+ 4	4.9	4.5	...
64.70	BPP	246	+16	6.3	4.2	13.6
44.60	BSM	160	...	...	4.5	14.0
39.00	Barbour Index	225	...	8.0	4.3	16.0
19.70	Boustead	72	...	0.7	4.0	...
50.10	Brit Data Mgt	206	– 5	4.7	2.9	15.0
3.51	Broadcastfax	21	– 1	...	1.4	17.5
7.25	Brooks Service	107	+ 2	...	1.4	...
56.80	CRT Gp	187	+ 2	...	1.4	18.8
152.90	Capita Group	217	– 1	...	1.3	31.9
48.40	Casket Plc	51½	– ½	...	2.2	14.8
21.40	Chiltern Capital	29	...	...	...	...
15.50	Christie	47	+1	...	...	...
1,081.70	Chubb Sec	367 †	+16	...	1.7	24.0
45.00	Comcare	123	+17	...	1.5	32.1
15.80	Corp Services	45	– 2	...	...	...
20.10	Courts Cnstg	85	– 2	...	...	...
23.70	Dan	155 †	– 4	3.3	2.7	21.0
259.30	Davis Service	254	+ 6	...	3.9	19.1
22.20	EW Facts	122	+ 3	0.4	3.6	14.0
28.40	Gardiner	29½	+ ½	0.4	3.0	18.4
1,198.90	Hays	395	– 3	...	2.2	25.7
182.70	Hogg Robinsn	204 †	+ 4	...	3.2	19.2
15.80	Holmes Protecn	39	...	...	...	2.2
10,954.70	Hsmth Wharncp	306	– 6½	...	1.6	25.1
544.00	ISS B DKr	2096½	–12½	...	1.0	14.5
2,877.00	Inchcape	548	–15	...	3.2	17.9
177.40	Johnson Clean	401	–26	28.7	3.6	19.7
59.90	Lep	64	...	...	...	...
34.30	Male Gp	304	+10	3.5	1.4	23.7
891.40	Manpower	1196½	–19½	...	...	...
41.00	Michael Page	185	+ 1½	1.8	3.3	29.1
5.44	Pearson	115	...	8.0	8.7	4.3
2.17	Prime Peoples A	4½	+ ½	...	...	...
40.00	Proudfoot Alex	64	– 1	...	29.3	3.5
58.30	RCO	358	–12	14.4	9.0	15.3
9.91	REA	105	+ 5	2.0	2.4	...
63.00	Reed Executive	109	+ 5	2.5	3.1	36.3
26.30	Reliance Sec A	117	+12	4.5	4.8	25.1
2,427.80	Rentokil	249	...	2.5	1.3	31.1
19.20	Robt & Nolan	340 †	+25	...	2.7	23.3
1,075.30	Salvesen (C)	372 †	+28	...	2.7	24.7
4.25	Scott Pickards A	40	...	0.8	2.0	15.6
20.40	Select Appt A	4½	...	...	...	...
152.30	Serco Gp	1313	+23	13.3	1.1	36.3
6.89	Shrwd Cmpn A	115	+ 3	...	2.7	3.3
59.20	Staveley	102	+ 1	...	3.7	23.3
27.50	Warner Howrd	32	+ 2	0.6	2.5	17.1
12.00	Weiner	57	...	...	...	...
37.90	Wilis Gp	37	– ½	...	1.9	18.9

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

613.30	Allied Colloids	233	– 2	...	2.3	21.4
567.00	Amersham	993	–10	...	1.7	28.6
29.90	Anglo Utd	79	...	...	...	...
6,394.70	BASF DM	£111½	–469½	...	3.9	...
491.60	BTP	344 †	+11	...	3.5	27.6
8,822.40	Bayer DM50	£134½	–556½	...	3.9	...
72.50	Blagden	156	–43	6.5	5.2	16.8
61.70	Brent Chems	121	– 5	...	2.5	11.1
124.20	Br Bio-Tech	348	– 5	...	...	...
1.59	Calrd Gp	9½	...	...	...	16.0
48.70	Clmnlks (W)	172	+ 9	7.2	5.3	19.7
2,054.20	Courtaulds	511 †	–23	...	3.5	12.8
466.70	Croda	356	+ 8	...	2.8	20.4
12.80	Dardlec	118	+ 4	4.6	4.9	9.0
210.50	Ellis & Everard	255	–10	...	3.5	24.1
10.70	Exmo Colour	35½	– ½	0.8	3.1	17.0
103.10	Halstead (J)	346	– 4	...	2.3	17.1
303.80	Hickson	175	– 7	...	5.7	16.2
6,746.60	Hoechst	£134½	–412½	...	3.2	...
190.00	Holliday Chem	186	+ 3	...	2.5	17.1
3,595.50	ICI	725	–26	...	4.6	...
1,504.60	Laporte	787	–20	19.0	3.2	21.7
139.30	Leigh	218 †	+16	...	4.5	19.2
14.00	MTM	54	+ 6	...	...	...
4,360.30	Norsk Hydro	2123½	+31½	...	1.3	30.5
114.30	Pittsbrn Zoch	468	+ 2	...	3.4	15.8
97.30	-dn- 'A'	423	+ 2	...	3.7	14.3
10.40	Prax	9½	...	...	...	19.1

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	W/dy +/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
43.00	Powrjet	272½	+ 1½	3.8	1.7	20.1
31.10	Satellite Speak	35	– 1	...	...	...
112.80	Wardle Storeys	457	+ 8	...	4.7	21.1
42.90	Wigtwhistle R	580	+ 5	17.0	3.7	19.8
195.60	Yorks Chem	428	+25	...	2.3	22.9
288.30	Yule Catto	251	+12	...	2.6	18.1
7,919.10	Zeneca	838	+25	...	4.1	49.5

DRAPERY, STORES

35.60	Alexon	62	– 3	...	6.0	...
257.10	Allders	238	+ 8	...	3.2	17.7
1,127.10	Argos Plc	379	– 4	...	3.4	32.3
12.70	Ashley Group	9	– ½	...	2.6	...
197.30	Ashley (Laura)	84	+12	0.1	0.1	...
257.00	Asprey	322 †	+13	5.2	2.0	20.8
56.90	Austin Reed	186	– 4	...	1.7	...
71.00	Beattie (J) 'A'	153	– 1	...	5.0	15.4
56.60	Bestalls	135	+ 3	1.9	1.8	...
186.20	Bentwear	133	+10	...	2.3	...
11.80	Blacks Leis	37 †	...	2.3	7.6	...
462.10	Body Shop	248 †	+15	...	0.9	31.6
60.90	Brown & Jackson	9½	– 2½	...	1.1	4.8
319.00	Brown (N)	437	+11	...	2.1	25.7
984.80	Burton	78	+ 2½	...	3.6	...
34.10	Cantors	205	...	...	3.4	28.6
67.80	Church	443	+12	12.5	3.5	30.4
28.00	Clinton Cards	165	+ 5	4.3	3.3	19.9
1,868.90	Cmns Vyella	273½	+ 6½	...	3.4	17.6
23.30	Colourvision A	115	+12	5.6	6.1	20.7
52.30	City Centrals	168	+ 2	...	3.1	15.6
218.50	Coates Parnlin	892	+11	26	0.8	11.2
2.48	Crown Eyes	155	...	7.5	6.0	10.6
2,023.30	Daisy Farm Intl	1210½	– 3½	...	2.0	17.9
125.40	Dewhirst (J)	99½	...	0.8	1.0	31.9
900.60	Dixons Grp	228	+16	...	3.5	...
5.16	ERA Gp	9	...	...	...	...
6.96	Elys (Wimbldn)	580	...	16.0	3.5	19.9
25.20	Esser Furn	220	...	...	4.5	...
166.50	Etam	265	+ 6	7.0	3.4	23.4
425.10	Fine Art Dev	534 †	+14	13.0	3.1	17.4
2.68	First Earth Tiles	47	...	...	...	...
16.40	Forminster	695 †	+10	14.5	2.6	12.6
21.10	French Conns	132	+ 6	...	...	...
34.80	Gent SK	67	– 4	...	3.9	30.8
19.30	Goldsmiths Gp	88	– 3	0.3	0.4	...
6,076.20	GUS	604	–28	...	2.4	18.6
3.74	Hampden Grp A	25	+ 4	...	3.0	12.4
71.20	Harrisons	68	+10	...	...	...
38.90	Heiene Plc	31	– 2	2.0	8.1	14.6
5.06	Heritage A	108	+ 7	...	...	...
6.35	Honeysuckle A	27	– 4	...	3.7	11.3
10.30	Jacques Vert	202	– 3	...	2.2	15.4
4,854.50	Kingfisher	730	+ 1	...	2.4	25.1
25.70	Leslie Wse Gp	74	– 1	4.0	6.8	15.3
89.30	Liberty	538	+ 3	7.2	1.7	63.1
424.30	Lloyds Chem	359	+ 1	...	2.2	18.7
1,007.00	MFI	173	+13	...	2.7	30.4
12,528.40	Marks Spencer	452 †	...	...	3.3	23.1
326.90	Mencies (John)	988	...	...	2.3	18.1
44.80	Moss Bros	268	– 2	5.5	2.6	31.5
852.40	Next	231	– 2	3.5	1.9	27.6
19.10	Oliver (G)	40	...	...	...	...
170.00	Oriflame Intl	318	+ 5	...	3.9	15.4
51.80	Pentrst	26	+ 1	0.8	2.8	17.5
96.30	QS Hldgs	245	+20	5.1	2.6	17.4
43.00	Rhino Grp A	48	– 4	...	...	...
37.40	Rosebys	160	...	...	...	...
184.30	Sherwood Gp	155	+11	...	3.5	14.8
1,857.30	Sears	123	– 3	...	3.6	...
95.40	Signet Group	132	+ 5	...	...	...
1,373.90	Smith WH 'A'	504	–24	...	3.5	18.5
168.30	-do- B	121	+ 2	...	2.9	19.8
2.18	Specialpress A	14	...	...	...	...
983.50	Storehouse	237 †	–10	...	2.6	23.4
98.40	T & S Stores	154	+ 1	6.0	4.9	11.5
83.10	Tie Rack	161	+ 2	...	1.7	28.4
136.20	Time Products	176	+ 7	...	3.9	18.8
8.53	Unter (Frankl) A	122	+10	6.0	6.1	10.5
3,033.70	Vendome	434	+16	...	1.8	20.2
30.40	Virgin	37	...	1.0	3.4	11.5
91.10	WHS Group	64	+ 1	...	1.6	28.3
3.52	Wenstum A	47	+ 3	1.8	5.0	...
423.10	Wickes	113	+ 1	...	0.2	51.4
5.37	Wid of Lesuhrs A	66	+12	...	...	...
72.80	Wyevale	190	+ 4	...	2.8	25.1
3.47	Xtra-vision A	2½	...	...	...	...

ELECTRICALS

285.80	ACT Group	155	+ 4	...	4.0	15.6
38.10	Acsia	253 †	...	...	3.1	18.9
52.50	Admiral	488	...	5.7	1.2	30.5
80.10	Alba	173	+10	...	3.5	19.5
9.99	Alphameric	37	+ 1½	...	...	...
298.70	Amstrad	449	+ ½	...	1.4	...
19.70	App Holos	95	–20	...	...	...
32.30	Allen	32	...	...	...	...
268.00	Astec	869	+ 6	...	0.4	...
55.80	Azlan	246	+ 6	...	1.5	30.5
23.80	Beales Hunter	242	+ 4	...	4.9	15.0
4.51	Bennett & Fount	6½	+ ½	...	...	...
1,547.00	BICC	439	– 6	19.2	5.5	...
151.00	Bilick	495	+20	...	2.6	18.0
312.40	Borland	1100	...	...	...	...
681.50	Bowthorpe	267	...	...	2.4	34.3
25,561.40	BT	460 †	–14	...	4.4	17.8
5,636.40	BT PrP	202 †	–14	...	4.4	21.8
4.42	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	17	– ½	0.1	0.7	...
20.60	Burnfield	60	– 6	5.7	12.0	9.5
11,094.60	Cable Wireless	528 †	– 2	...	1.9	26.6
64.40	Chloride	27	+ 2½	...	...	...
48.30	CML Micro	276	...	4.7	2.1	20.1
17.40	Comptr People	125	+17	...	...	...
366.10	Corp Elec	167	– 2	...	1.3	17.1
33.30	Cybervox	136 †	+ 2	...	1.4	25.1
268.10	Delta	519	+ 8	...	3.4	21.7
20.80	Dennens Sla	468	+ 5	6.2	1.7	19.9
107.50	Domino	420	+14	7.4	2.3	14.3
111.80	Dowding Mills	76	+ 2	...	3.9	11.1
94.70	Dracla A	1480	–55	10.3	0.9	31.5
1,148.70	Electrocomponts	547	+ 9	...	1.9	22.3
50.50	El Data Prc	580	–15	5.5	1.2	∞
41.50	Electron House	157	+ 6	...	2.5	34.4
27.00	Emess	259	+ 2	0.1	0.5	...
332.60	Eurotherm	744	+ 7	9.5	1.6	∞
820.10	FKI	1864	–17½	...	2.2	27.0
813.40	Farnell Elec	607	–24½	...	1.4	32.4
6.18	Feedback A	72 †	...	...	3.4	9.9
9.36	Ferranti	1 ⅜	...	...	...	...
46.70	Flex Tech	314	+10	...	0.8	28.1
19.20	Forward Gps	238	+ 7	4.0	2.1	16.8
6.80	Forward Tech	20	+ 1½	...	...	...
1,098.20	GEC	332 †	+ 4	10.4	3.9	16.6
108.70	Gresley	168	+ 2	...	8.1	35.3
30.30	Grayshire	11½	...	...	...	...
1.97	Hilclare A	41	+ 2	0.5	1.5	...
6.46	INSTEM A	13	+ 1	0.3	2.1	9.7
59.50	Ind Control	149	...	...	3.7	15.0
70.60	Jones Stroud	388	...	...	2.9	15.5
30.30	Kalamazoo	103 †	+ 2	2.7	3.6	23.9
3.57	Kembrey	12½	...	0.1	1.6	...
141.30	Kenwood App	385	+16	...	2.6	21.4
26.60	Kewill Sys A	223	+ 1	...	...	...
12.80	Kode	138	–15	6.0	5.4	16.4
4.98	Laser-					

British Gas seeks $5bn contracts

BY JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH Gas is bidding for a slice of several big pipeline and supply contracts in South America worth $5 billion.

The deals, spread from Chile to Brazil, signal an important shift in strategy for the company, which is under pressure to move into new markets. Michael Heseltine, President of The Board of Trade, announced last month that British Gas was to lose its monopoly of UK domestic gas sales in two years.

Talks involving a proposed $4 billion gas pipeline linking Bolivia and Brazil are at an advanced stage. Potential international partners include Tenneco Gas of America. A study on a second project, linking Chile and Argentina across the Andes, is due to be completed by December 31.

British Gas hopes to be involved at all levels, from helping build the pipelines to running the companies that will supply the gas.

Foreign Exchanges

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.31	2.10
Austria Sch	19.29	17.79
Belgium Fr	56.52	53.12
Canada $	2.078	1.918
Cyprus Cypf	0.810	0.780
Denmark Kr	10.70	9.90
Finland Mkk	9.19	8.39
France Fr	9.30	8.80
Germany Dm	2.76	2.55
Greece Dr	396.00	371.00
Hong Kong $	12.19	11.19
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01
Italy Lire	2640.00	2485.00
Japan Yen	181.50	164.50
Malta	0.623	0.558
Netherlds Gld	3.068	2.838
Norway Kr	11.84	11.04
Portugal Esc	274.00	255.50
S Africa Rd	5.90	5.00
Spain Pta	222.50	208.50
Sweden Kr	12.76	11.96
Switzerland Fr	2.34	2.16
Turkey Lira	22890.0	21890.0
USA $	1.590	1.460

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading Friday.

Looking for magic carpet ride

CARPETRIGHT, the carpet retail chain headed by Sir Phil Harris, is due on Thursday to unveil its first figures since the company came to market last June.

Brokers are hoping that Sir Phil has taken shareholders on a magic carpet ride during the period, with pre-tax profits virtually doubled.

Estimates currently range from between £5 million and £6 million, compared with £2.8 million last time, accompanied by a maiden interim dividend of 2p to 2.5p.

Sir Phil made his return to the stock market with Carpetright after an absence of five years. He is estimated to have received £70 million as part of his share in the sale of Harris Queensway.

TODAY

Improved sales and cost controls should help **Colorvision**, the electrical retailer, to lift interim pre-tax profits to between £250,000 and £300,000 (£200,000).

Interims: Abtrust Scotland Inv Co, Aerospace Engineering, Carclo Engineering, Colorvision, Court Cavendish Group, Dalepak Foods, Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, Peel Holdings. **Finals:** Soundtracs, Thomson Corp (D). **Economic statistics:** Producer price index (December), index of output of the production industries (November).

TOMORROW

Stanley Leisure, the casino and betting shop operator, is expected to turn in first-half pre-tax profits ahead to £4 million (£3.5 million), according to UBS. An improved interim dividend of 1.6p (1.52p) is predicted.

Interims: Photo-Me Intl, River & Merc Extra Income (D), Stanley Leisure, YRM, Zetters Group. **Finals:** Aberforth Smaller Cos, Alexanders Holdings, Central Motor Auctions, Denmans Electrical, Everards Brewery, Samuel Heath & Sons, Hunterprint Group, Lookers, Windsor.



Sir Phil Harris, whom brokers hope will deliver improved profits from Carpetright

WEDNESDAY

London Scottish Bank, the consumer credit, debt collection and reinsurance group, should see final pre-tax profits climb to £4.3 million (£3.8 million), according to Kleinwort Benson. Market forecasts range from £4.2 million to £4.5 million. **London & Clydeside** is forecast to lift final pre-tax profits to £500,000 (£400,000), according to S G Warburg. A maintained total dividend of 4.5p is predicted.

Interims: Barbour Index, Bealers Hunter, Daejan Holdings, Dunedin Japan Inv Trust, Electron House, Exmoor Dual Inv Trust. **Finals:** Beatrix Mines (D), Bracken Mines (D), Buffelsfontein Gold Mining (D), Davenport Vernon, Division Group, Grootvlei Prop Mines (D), Kinross Mines (D), Leslie Gold Mines (D), London & Clydeside, London Scottish Bank, Oceonics Group (D), RCO Holdings, St Helens Gold Mines (D), Stilfontein Gold Mining (D), Unisel Gold Mines (D), Winldehaak Mines (D). **Economic statistics:** Retail prices index (December), public sector borrowing requirement (December), retail sales (December).

THURSDAY

Gestetner, the office equipment supplier, is expected to make a large loss after exceptional charges of at least £43.8 million to cover redundancies and asset writedowns. NatWest Securities forecasts a pre-tax loss for the year to October 31 of £33.5 million (£27.2 million profit).

Sandy Morris, of NatWest, expects the dividend total to be halved to 4p (8.2p), although BZW and SG Warburg predict the payment will be maintained. Most interest is focused on whether Inchcape will bid after its purchase of a 15.3 per cent stake from the former chairman last year. At the same time, Inchcape took out a call option, which, on conversion, would boost its holding to 24.6 per cent. The problem is that the exercise price is equal to 172p a share, against Friday's 140p.

Budgens, the supermarket group, is expected to lift first-half, pre-tax profits to £3.3 million (£3.2 million).

Interims: Aim Group, Budgens, Carpetright, City of Oxford Inv Trust (3rd ID), Crest Packaging, Data General Corp (Q1), Hampson Industries, McKay Securities, William Ransom & Son, Whinney Mackay-Lewis, John D Wood. **Finals:** City Site Estates, Contra-Cyclical Inv Trust, Geared Income Inv Trust, Gestetner Group, Hill & Smith Hldgs. **Economic statistics:** Gross domestic product (prelim, Q4).

FRIDAY

Interims: British Bloodstock, Hidong Estate, Shield Group. **Finals:** Cardiff Property, LPA Industries, Malvern UK Index Trust, Park Food Group, St Andrew Trust, Selective Assets Trust.

PHILIP PANGALOS

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Touche attacks ASB's goodwill proposals

TOUCHE Ross, the accountant, says that Accounting Standards Board proposals on the treatment of goodwill will cause a slump in company profits. It claims the ASB is trying to force companies into a "legal straitjacket" and depress their profits for up to 20 years by writing off the goodwill acquisitions against profits. Its criticisms come in response to the publication of the ASB's discussion paper on goodwill last month, which suggested a range of proposals, including charging goodwill to profits over a 20-year period.

Touche says there is hardly any support in business or finance for charging goodwill to profits. It suggests that companies should be allowed to include goodwill and intangible assets, such as brand names, patents and copyright it acquires, on their balance sheets and that they should be revalued each year.

Managers look East

THE enthusiasm among fund managers for British shares has cooled sharply since the start of the new year, according to a survey by Smith New Court, the broker, and Gallup, the market research firm. Instead, they are turning to the Tokyo stock market in search of higher returns. SNC's monthly survey shows that a wide selection of investment managers, who together control £799 billion, believe that the performance of the FT-SE 100 index, which leapt to record levels in December, will be more sedate in the coming weeks. Only a majority of 5 per cent of the managers said they were planning to invest in the London market in the coming month, compared with a 27 per cent majority in December.

Plea over sick pay

SMALL businesses are urging the Government to scrap plans to switch responsibility for sick pay to employers. The Statutory Sick Pay Bill, currently going through the House of Lords, abolishes the 80 per cent rebate for sick pay the Government pays employers. Ian Handford, of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "If the Government is keen on returning to basics, it should scrap this and go back to fulfilling its original commitment to fully fund sick pay."

Graham Group sell-off

GRAHAM Group, the builders' merchant, is to be floated on the stock market within the next three months. Shares in the company, which is owned by BTR, will be offered to the public and leading financial institutions in a sell-off valuing the group at about £200 million. Gordon Yardley, a BTR director, has been appointed as non-executive chairman of the group. Graham is the fourth largest builders' merchant in the UK, with about 5 per cent of the market.

Answers from page 36

HOMUNCLE

(c) A little or diminutive man, a mannikin, a delightfully offensive word for a modern woman to use to put down a man of less than average height while deterring unwelcome advances, from the Latin *homunculus*, diminutive of *homo* a man: "The door opened suddenly, and admitted an homuncle, of about four feet three."

INCIPIT

(a) The Latin word *incipit* - [here] beginneth, used by medieval scribes in indicating the beginning of a new treatise, poem, division, etc., in a Latin or (sometimes) English manuscript, hence as a substantive, the beginning or first words or lines of a treatise or poem in a MS: "The contents of each volume are fully given, for the most part with incipits and explicits."

VERATRUM

(c) A perennial genus of the family *Veratreae* of liliaceous plants, a plant belonging to this genus, especially the white hellebore (*Veratrum album*), also a rhizome of this, from the Latin *vērātrum* hellebore: "Veratrum has likewise been found useful in epilepsy, and other convulsive complaints."

WIN

(b) To dwell or reside, to live in somewhere, variant of *won*, from the OE *wunian* to dwell: "An ancient town where, tradition says, a housekeeper winned in other days."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

With 1 Ne7+ White wins material, e.g. 1 ... Kf8 2 Nc6+ or 1 ... Kh8 2 Rxf7.

Sluggish outlook keeps inflation in check

Economic recovery appears to have gathered momentum, dampening hopes of arate cut soon and boosting inflationary expectations. Despite this, the outlook remains favourable for gilts. The disinflationary international environment, a tighter fiscal stance, a likely deceleration in economic growth and low inflation all point to further falls in base rates and bond yields. I expect base rates to fall to 4 per cent and ten-year yields to 5.5 per cent by the year-end.

It is not surprising that the uncertain economic environment has triggered profit-taking. There are, after all, valid reasons to be concerned about the longer-term inflation outlook. Not least is the UK's inflationary mentality, reflected in the desire for higher house prices, and seen in our poor longer-term inflation performance. Also, supply side problems suggest a resurgence of inflation pressures in the future and Britain's low rate of past investment points to capacity and skill shortages.

The unpleasantness of previous inflation shocks suggests it is still premature to regard Britain as a low inflation country. But the still-sluggish economic outlook suggests a resurgence of inflation is some way off. The key is that the world economy is still weak, with no locomotive for world growth. The US is not generating enough jobs to sustain consumer spending at the pace seen at the end of last year and its US growth is likely to stay sluggish. After recession in 1993, the Continent faces stagnation this year and in Japan there is no sign of an early recovery.

The implications for gilts are positive. Any rises in oil and non-oil commodities will be small. World trade will be subdued, limiting exports. Interest rates will remain low or fall. And US yields will fall, which will be well received by European markets. In this environment, a sustained recovery in Britain depends on continued resurgence in home demand. But this is the problem. Despite strong pre-Christmas spending, the recovery may be too weak to withstand the tax rises. The possible negative impact on consumer confidence means the savings ratio could stay high and spending sluggish.

In this environment, labour and product markets should remain slack, restraining inflationary pressures. Compared with the two recessions in the 1970s, real wages have held up well.

This could suggest there are no pent-up wage pressures in the private sector, despite the welcome in unemployment. Admittedly, here the risks are on the upside. For example, earnings are growing at 4 per cent, above inflation, in manufacturing despite 57,000 jobs lost in the past year. The competitive environment should limit the scope for big price rises, as higher costs are absorbed in the battle for market share. If margins were low then there might be a reason for companies to raise prices. But domestic and export margins are healthy, due to cost cuts, a rebound in productivity and sterling's depreciation. Not only are investors becoming too cautious but it seems risks are being well reflected in current bond yields. Real ten-year yields, based on current inflation, are 1.8 per cent in Japan, 1.9 per cent in Germany, 2.9 per cent in the US and 4.9 per cent in the UK. Even adjusting for expected inflation, gilts look attractive. This suggests yields are already incorporating sufficient inflation-risk premium. International investors are finding this premium attractive. In the last quarter of 1993, the Japanese brought more than $26 billion of foreign bonds, much in Europe, some in gilts. Such investment is likely to continue. It may take time for the gilt market to be convinced that inflationary pressures will remain subdued and higher taxes will demand spending. But once convinced, yields should fall.

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DKB International

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.4915 (0.0015)
German mark
2.6116 (+0.0269)
Exchange index
82.7 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2612.3 (5.3)
FT-SE 100
3400.6 (45.4)
New York Dow Jones
3867.20 (+46.43)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
18973.70 (+849.69)

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TODAY
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Applications in writing enclosing CV together with daytime telephone number to Brenda Hemmings, Recruitment Manager, News International Newspapers Limited, PO Box 481 Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

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Sunset song: the political row over the future of coal in Britain could be rekindled when the Commons starts debating the Bill tomorrow

The stark choice for coal — sell off or shut down

Philip Bassett previews the Conservatives' "ultimate privatisation" as the debate on the Coal Industry Bill begins in Parliament

The Government's "ultimate privatisation", as Lord Parkinson, a former Energy Secretary, dubbed it, tomorrow faces its most searching test yet when the Commons gets its first chance to square up over the Bill to privatise British Coal. Coal privatisation will be a running political row for the next six months, as the Government tries to shift back into private hands the ultimate nationalised industry and as Labour harries it all the way.

Labour's attacks will be made all the sharper by the forthcoming round of further coal closures. Revealed by *The Times* last week, the new closures were dismissed the same day by British Coal spokesmen as "pure speculation", only for the corporation's marketing director to confirm them the next day. The half a dozen pits to be closed will take BC down to the number of mines originally envisaged when it made its ill-fated big bang closure announcement in October 1992. Labour's attack on privatisation will be given a harsh edge by the closures, backing up its concentration on pensions, health and safety, and business stability as well as the principle of selling-off itself.

With the Government already hammered by the back to basics row and the Prime Minister still fresh from his appearance today before the Scott arms to Iraq enquiry, the privatisation Bill will require all the presentation skills Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, can characteristically muster to see it to Royal assent.

But behind the fire and fury of the Commons rows that the Bill will engender lies what looks like an even greater concern for the Government — that this kite will not fly, that however difficult the Parliamentary process of privatisation, the way it is structured means industry and the City are extremely sceptical about how good a buy even a slimmed-down coal industry is.

The Coal Industry Bill is a dense and complex Parliamentary document. With the near-nightmare of the privatisation of British Rail still fresh in ministers' minds, the potential for coal providing the same, if not more, political tripwires is clear. "You would have thought rail privatisation would have taught them one thing," says one senior civil servant, "if you want to privatise something like this — at all costs try to do it without legislation."

Potential buyers and City mining analysts are now coming to a preliminary assessment of the privatisation as laid down in the Bill — and, mostly, they do not much like what they find. "They are saying — we don't want to buy these things," Charles Kernot, a mining analyst at Credit Lyonnais Laing and author of a recent study of the prospects for selling British Coal, says, "because they are saying we can't justify to shareholders that we can make any money out of it in the longer term."

The core of the problem is depressingly familiar — the market for coal. "Coal has no serious alternative markets" to supplying the power stations run by National Power and PowerGen, as a gloomy Commons' analysis of the Bill prepared for MPs puts it, "so its future looks very bleak."

From when the new Coal Authority is created and it then offers for licence the assets of a privatised coal industry, probably in the autumn, the supply contracts with the generators will have a little over three years to run. After that, the future for coal is wholly uncertain. The Commons' analysis suggests coal will lose out to gas even if it can beat it on price. The non-power station market is currently being sewn up as quickly as possible by such mining companies as Budge and Edwards Energy. By bidding to licence mines whose coal BC can no longer find a market for, and offering lower prices based on operating costs and staff levels at the mines up to a third of BC's, "they are virtually ensuring that BC's privatised mines will be cut out of anything other than that market. In turn, the apparent reluctance of the generators to sell redundant power stations to potential competitors at anything like what they regard as a realistic price, despite the urgings of Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, means that any possibility for upping the market for coal this way is limited.



Heseltine: needs to use skills

If the market position for coal from privatised stations is unclear — and the limited life of the core coal contracts with the generators is understood to be putting off some big potential buyers such as Hanson — then what tomorrow's Bill is actually offering for sale is as yet unclear too, which is also worrying potential purchasers and the City.

This crucial unknown reflects an internal Whitehall argument over the privatisation, between those — including some senior officials at the DTI — who believe that it should lead to at least a decent business being made available to the private sector, and those — including some at the Treasury — who view coal as little more than grief, an industry in terminal decline from which the Government ought to wash its hands as thoroughly as possible. The argument is manifesting itself in the key issue of how much of BC's liabilities can or should be transferred to the private sector as part of the sale. Neither Mr Heseltine nor Tim Eggar, the coal minister, will publicly give any clue about what the liability load will be, but the City and possible buyers regard it as central to whether they are interested — and at the moment a key deterrent. "Unquantified and unquantifiable liabilities are exactly what the private investor least likes," says one possible buyer, insisting that such liabilities are unacceptable unless the commercial benefits are large, quick and certain — hardly coal's position, given the uncertainty of its future markets.

Under the Bill at present, for instance, successful licensees would have to meet any as yet unknown health claims from employees, even if their conditions were caused during their employment with BC. Subsidence liability is a further problem. New licensees will be responsible for all subsidence liabilities within a defined area — whether caused before or after the licensee takes over.

Horse-trading over the liabilities looks inevitable. "If they find they are not going to get any interest from people coming in to bid for the industry," says one City investment adviser, "they may have to remove the liabilities completely" — a move which will not satisfy those ministers who want to get shot of coal completely as a drain on the public purse.

The make-up of the five licence packages will also be crucial, and is yet unknown — in particular, the mix of deep and opencast mines available in each package. BC's land holdings, rights as well as ownership, are central to the potential for working opencast coal. If these land holdings are included in the sell-off, then the Government runs the risk of creating new monopolies around the five privatised businesses, which given the Bill's requirement that competition be promoted — a requirement that was at the heart of the bitter regulatory clashes in the gas industry — could lead to trouble. If they are not, then new market entrants looking for short-term involvement in mining could further eat away at the post-BC coal market.

The level of coal reserves is a further concern. Banks putting up money for new investors in coal will see the level of reserves as a key indicator of longer-term viability, yet as the Commons' own analysis of the Bill shows, economically-available coal reserves are highly limited. Even a modern, showpiece mine such as Selby may have little more than 15 years of realisable reserves.

Private investors will want these and other points resolved before they will be willing to commit themselves to buying BC. Indeed, some see these difficulties as so much of a deterrent that they now understand why some private operators have been keener to bid for licensing the mines BC has market-tested and is closing, which have none of the liability load carried by the mines to be offered under the Bill.

After edging towards what hard-line Conservative ministers have always seen as a mouthwatering goal, though, the Government will want to sell. It will want the privatisation to succeed. That may mean it being left with residual liabilities for coal on a much larger scale than ministers had hoped for. Moving the privatisation fully into the Commons may well rekindle the political row over the future of coal, but the real game of who is buying, and who is buying what — and if they are buying at all — is still to play for.

Basically, economic forces and moral judgments go together



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Amid the financial and sexual scandals piling upon the Government, the crux of its embarrassment over the "back to basics" slogan has been somewhat lost. A minister, you recall, got into hot water because he had just helped create a one-parent family when senior ministers were raising the "problems" of such families and when the prime minister was telling an enthusiastic party conference that people should take more responsibility for themselves and their families. What annoyed many was the errant minister's implied excuse that, since the child he fathered would be financially provided for and not a charge on the state, his behaviour was a personal and not a political matter. The knee-jerk reaction — that this meant one moral law for the rich and another for the poor — was predictable. Yet his point is well made.

Back to basics has many aspects, but its backbone lies in the seemingly inexorable rise in public spending and tax due to changing social and economic patterns, one of which is the rapid growth of one-parent families with no earner. Social security spending has been growing many times faster than the Budget as a whole. Unless such trends are reversed, either taxation must keep rising or welfare provision will have to be cut more and more. That economic dilemma is what the calls for people to take more family responsibility are all about.

In an ideal liberal society, people are supposed to be able to behave as they like if they do not damage others, which on this particular issue means tapping taxpayers for their money. But there is an intimate relationship between economic forces, including peoples's preferences in public spending and tax levels, and prevailing intellectual ideas, including what is right and wrong.

Usually, economic forces merely tilt the balance between competing ideas. In the City, for instance, increased competition between fund managers strengthened the hand of those who think big investors should operate at arms length to the companies they own, rather than influence them from the inside. When economic forces touch social or moral issues, everything becomes fraught.

Take women's place in the labour market. For at least 130 years, women have been struggling first to gain entry and progressively to gain equal status in the more lucrative professions. They are still battling. Women in the North had no such torturous struggle to get low-paid textile jobs that men disdained because the wages would not support a family. It is no coincidence that ideas of women's absolute equality in the labour market — to the extent that non-working mothers were as stigmatised as "latch-key mothers" a generation earlier — suddenly triumphed when business needed new sources of cheap labour in the growing service and white collar industries. Men might have been available but wages would have had to be raised hefitly to attract men of equal quality.

If young men have little prospect of work, their value to the family falls away

A controversial case is ordination of women in the Church of England. Important protestant churches have had women ministers for a generation. Theological differences between the CofE's protestant and catholic traditions have not changed. What has changed is that vicars' pay has plummeted relative to many other professions. Not surprisingly, the quality of women wanting to be priests has increased relative to men. That illustrates the most glaring lacuna in dominant ideas about women in the labour market. While women have insisted on equal pay for the same job, they have not yet insisted, per se, on being paid enough to support a family. For most women in lower paid jobs, dual incomes are assumed — or no family. That has allowed business to replace full-time jobs with cheaper part-time work on a grand scale, accelerating social security spending. The latest twist in this market-driven intellectual battle is the long-standing controversy over the value of schooling for under fives. Industry's need for state provision, to cut the opportunity cost of young mothers working, rests on the battle being won by ideas that were treated with contempt as practised in the old socialist states.

Economic forces have had a profound effect on the family. While the nuclear family has always been central in most societies, the economic family unit changes. The agricultural and industrial revolutions, along with state transfers to provide for old age and healthcare, and the decline of the family firm, progressively did away with extended families. Domestic appliances made it easier for both adults to join the labour market. The lure of high disposable income among young workers has led commercial and media culture to pander to teenage prejudices of independence and irreverance.

Much of the trumpeted breakdown of nuclear families as an economic unit rests on the welfare state interacting with male unemployment and low wages. Unemployment among women, at 5.3 per cent, is largely cyclical, but most of the 13.4 per cent male rate is here to stay. Since mid-1979, female employment has risen 700,000 but male employment has dropped 2.7 million. If young men have little prospect of work, as in many communities, or if their wages cannot keep a family, their economic contribution to the family falls away. If they provide little else, they are superfluous. Every time Michael Heseltine signs away 100,000 full-time male jobs in coal and gas, as his predecessors did in shipbuilding, thousands of nuclear families lose economic value.

Among the affluent, it may be fine for personal preferences to determine whether families stick together, but if that causes huge rises in public spending, there is indeed a problem and the moral issue becomes society's business. If moral ideas and economic priorities are so intertwined, that means the moral ideas have to be dominant and apply to everyone to have effect. To reverse such intertwined trends, the prime minister says, we have to condemn a little more. A civilised welfare state depends on government promoting employment at wages above family subsistence. It may also depend on society imposing social codes and sometimes changing them — retrospectively in the case of the Child Support Agency. That is when people get hurt.

Changing TECs

From the Director-General of the CBI

Sir, You ask, rhetorically (January 10) whether the political clock is "quickly ticking away for TECs". We hope not. TECs (and LECs in Scotland) have done a lot in their three years of existence to bring greater focus and coherence to the Government's support for training.

But the authors of the LSE report to which you refer were right to point to some weaknesses in the structure within which TECs operate, and to uneven performance from place to place. They conclude, perhaps exaggerating to make a point, by recommending "a rescue package".

Fortunately, in so far as such a package is needed, it is to hand. A CBI review published in November pointed to many of the difficulties identified by the LSE study, and identified solutions to them. A funding council, at arm's length from Government, would bring clarity to the TECs' mission and shield them from political interference. Giving TECs greater freedom to manage their own budgets would allow them the flexibility needed to respond to the circumstances of their local markets. And extending the remit of the Audit Commission to cover TEC activities would help promote both value for money, and cross-fertilisation of ideas.

There is no need for a radical shake-up of the movement. Instead, some incremental changes are required, learning from the lessons of the first three years. But David Hunt would be well advised to make those changes soon, before the enthusiasm so far shown by the business community is lost.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD DAVIES,
Director-General, CBI,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Cause for celebration

CHAMPAGNE is bubbling over in City wine bars — and the timing could not be better for the House of Krug, which has welcomed the sixth generation of Krugs into the business. Olivier and Caroline Krug, son and daughter respectively of the famous brothers, Henri and Rémi, appear to be thriving in their roles. Both 27, they went to school together, played in the same garden together, and are now busy learning the champagne trade. After a two-year spell in Japan, Olivier now spends much of his time in the United Kingdom, while Caroline is busy building up contacts in Germany. Appropriately enough, she lives just across the river from Mainz, birthplace of Johann-Joseph Krug, who founded the company in 1843. An increase in champagne sales after two miserable years has lifted profits at Rémy Cointreau, Krug's main shareholder since 1977, and much of the money is flowing from the Square Mile. Just before Christmas, a City broker splashed out nearly £1,000 on a case of 1982 Vintage Krug at Corney & Barrow. Balls Brothers, the wine bar chain, also claims to be selling more Krug — appropriately, as it happens. Richard Balls, the family member currently in charge, has just celebrated the birth of a son — the sixth generation of the Balls family.



A family affair for the Krugs: from left, Olivier, Henri, Caroline and Rémi

Into action

COULD the rough, tough world of Eurobond dealers be going soft? In a worrying break with their savage tradition, the City's biggest Eurobond houses have agreed to pull together in the name of charity. For a month, they are donating a percentage of their trades to Action Research, a medical research charity devoted to improving the health of children. The result could be a windfall of about £150,000. "January tends to be a very busy month for new issues," says Denys Firth of SG Warburg Securities, who is co-ordinating the efforts of BNP Capital Markets, Goldman Sachs and 17 other leading firms, his own included. Five other suppliers to the markets, Allen & Overy and Linklaters & Paines among them, have chipped in. The total raised will be announced at the Mardi Gras Ball on February 5.

LEHMAN Brothers has poached senior derivatives expert Frederick Appel from Salomon Brothers, where he was in charge of UK equity derivatives. The appointment is a coup for Lehmans, which last week hired another big hitter — Alan Goodhill — as head of UK and European Equities.

Air mail

UNABLE to tranfer news photos from Friday's signing ceremony in Riga, the Latvian capital, of a £108 million deal to modernise and privatise the former Soviet republic's crumbling telecommunications, the enterprising Lord Young of Graffham, executive chairman of Cable and Wireless, whose family hails from the Baltic, personally sped the negatives back to Heathrow on his executive jet. As Peter Eustace, of C&W media relations, said, when the deal is finished, Lord Young will not have to get up to such antics.

Old chums

WHAT price old school ties for Norman Lamont, who is to chair a new £30 million Taiwan Investment Trust, to be launched by Jupiter Tyndall next month? It will be the former Chancellor's second job for the group since he joined the board at NM Rothschild in September with a brief to help the merchant bank with international expansion, including the Far East. In October, he became a non-executive director of the First Philippine Investment Trust, managed by Jupiter Tyndall (Asia), and a second link in less than three months seems curious. The reason for Lamont's enthusiasm may rest with John Craig, vice-chairman of Jupiter Tyndall, who was head of banking at NM Rothschild when Lamont worked there as a fund manager before moving into politics in 1979.

JON ASHWORTH

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (19098)
9.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (89258291)
9.25 Kilroy. (s) (4274388) **9.45 Newshound.** (s) (1424253)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9622982) **10.05 Playdays** (s) (5771291)
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick... (61498104)
11.55 Pebble Mill (s) (4048562) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (67263562)
13.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (87833) **1.30 Neighbours.** (Ceefax) (s) (13289291) **1.50 XYZ** (s) (13290307) **2.15 Knots Landing** (s) (5337185)
14.15 Family Affairs. (s) (9965340)
14.45 The Complete BBC Diet. (7137123)
14.55 Bump (7380765) **3.50 Model Millie** (s) (7109340) **4.05 Batfink** (9999949) **4.10 Jackanory: Worry Warts** (s) (1324098) **4.25 SuperTed** (r) (9983765) **4.35 Albert the 5th Musketeer** (9220659)
16.00 Newsround (6927727) **5.05 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (5306036)
16.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (857272)
17.00 Six O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis and Jeanie Bond. (Ceefax) and weather (901)
17.30 Regional News Magazines (253)



Mike Smith, centre, tests celebrities (7.00pm)

18.00 NEW **That's Showbusiness.** A new series of a celebrity quiz game with Mike Smith. (Ceefax) (s) (2611)
18.30 Watchdog – Holiday Special. An unappetising look behind the scenes at hotel kitchens in Majorca (Ceefax) (765)
19.00 A Question of Sport. Bill Beaumont's team of Stephen Hendry and Andy Cole take on Ieuan Evans and Mary Thompson, led by Ian Botham. (Ceefax) (s) (8659)
19.30 The Brittas Empire: The Whitbury Leisure Centre prepares for the christening of the Brittas twins. (Ceefax) (s) (1974)
20.00 Nine O'Clock News with Peter Sissons. (Ceefax) Weather (3562)
20.30 Panorama: Back to Basics. Does the Government's moral campaign only work for those who have a job? Vivian White reports from Basildon, the Essex town which has come to typify the new Tory constituency. He examines the links between unemployment and family break-up, medical problems and crime. (525456)
21.10 Middlemarch. A repeat of last Wednesday's first episode of the six-part dramatisation of George Eliot's novel. (Ceefax) (s) (1043562). **Northern Ireland:** The Back Page 10.35 Middlemarch 12.00 Film 94 12.30-1.00 Careering Ahead
22.35 Film 94 with Barry Norman. Reviews of Woody Allen's *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, *Tombstone*, the legend of the gunfight at the OK Corral, and *Heaven and Earth*, the third part of Oliver Stone's war trilogy (s) (837833). **Wales:** Face Off 12.10am Film 94 12.40-1.10 Careering Ahead
12.05am Careering Ahead (r) (3518126)
12.35 Weather (4062234) Ends at **12.40**
3.00-3.50 BBC Select: RCN Nursing Update (75234) **3.30 Pathways to Care** (76283760)

BBC2

8.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax) (8820681)
8.15 Westminster Daily. (1270302)
8.30 In the Making. Features Antonia Schadler, head chef at a hotel in Worcestershire for 20 years (r) (1795746) **8.50 A Week to Remember** (b/w). Pathé News for this week from 1954 (6118307)
9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, **1.20** Puppydog Tales (74962949) **1.25-1.40** Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams (s) (57279901)
2.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by **Numbers Plus** (62492253)
2.15 Around Westminster (r) (672727). **Wales:** Welsh Lobby **2.45 Chris Serle's Summer Season.** The secrets of the Punch and Judy man (r) (7147475)
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by **Songs of Praise** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (9773524) **3.40 A Week to Remember** (b/w) (r) (7370388) **3.50 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7369272) **4.00 Today's the Day.** Recent history quiz (s) (494)
4.30 People of the Valley. Welsh language drama serial. English subtitles (678). **Wales:** Pride of Place **5.00 Catchword.** Paul Coia introduces another round of the word game (6807)
5.30 The Great British Garden Show. Cumbria's Skelton Show (r). (Ceefax) (s) (630)
6.00 Def II: The Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Comedy (108659) **6.25 Ren and Stimpy.** Cult animation series (207494) **6.50 Goggle Eyes** Comedy drama about a one-parent family (746524)
7.30 The Bigger Picture. Billy Connolly continues his look at the history of Scottish art. This week he focuses on how artists have captured the Scottish countryside. (Ceefax) (s) (307)



Russian geologist Sergei Vartanyan (8.00pm)

8.00 NEW **Horizon: The Last Mammoth** (Ceefax) (s) (431611)
8.50 Funky Black Shorts. Second of six dramas about the black and Asian experience of life marks Lenny Henry's debut at writing and directing. (Ceefax) (755456)
9.00 FILM: Beyond the Stars (1989). Drama starring Martin Sheen as a retired astronaut idolised by a boy having trouble with his divorced parents. Directed by David Saperstein (2833)
10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (756659)
11.15 The Late Show. Jeremy Isaacs interviews the American writer, Joseph Heller (s) (271678)
11.55 Weather (845140)
12.00 FILM: The City That Never Sleeps (1953, b/w). Documentary-style crime thriller about a hard-up Chicago policeman investigating a blackmail case. Directed by John H. Auer (811578) Ends at **1.35am**

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CHOICE



Penelope Keith battles it out in court (ITV, 8.00pm)

Law and Disorder
ITV, 8.00pm

In *No Job for a Lady* Alex Shearer created an amiable comedy in which Penelope Keith played a battling MP. In his new series Keith plays a battling barrister. The job may have changed but not the humour, which is the same gentle, inoffensive stuff about a bossy woman holding her own in a male world. Keith's antagonists include a sniffy fellow barrister (Simon Williams) and a stupid judge (Charles Kay). The script often reads as if *Rumpole* had been hi-jacked by the *Carry On* team. "I can't get no satisfaction, my lord" says Keith's learned counsel, correcting the title of the Rolling Stones' hit. "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that", comes his lordship's reply. It is only a pity Sid James is not around to add his filthy guffaw.

Horizon: The Last Mammoth
BBC2, 8.00pm

In the spring of last year Russian scientists made a startling announcement. The woolly mammoth, generally thought to have become extinct at the end of the Ice Age, had survived for far longer. It was still in being at the time of the Egyptian Pharaohs 3,500 years ago, or some 7,000 years later than originally thought. The discovery was based on the examination of fossils found in the Siberian Arctic. Kate O'Sullivan's film takes up the story and tackles the intriguing question of why the woolly mammoth survived in the bleakness of Siberia when it died out everywhere else. Experts from England, Zimbabwe, the United States and Russia itself scratch their heads and try to come up with an answer.

Cutting Edge: Nurses
Channel 4, 9.00pm

The cameras go to Glasgow Western Infirmary and reveal that the lot of nurses is somewhat removed from the constructions of television fiction. Even *Casualty* looks like a whitewash compared with this, giving little idea of the long hours, the poor pay and the difficult, sensitive and somewhat dangerous nature of the work. It is no joke having to empty urine bottles, comfort a man terminally ill with cancer or deal with a tough Glaswegian drunk who may not be very careful with his fists. In the circumstances the nurses come across as wholly dedicated and professional, though you can understand why the younger ones let off steam in some of the city's less respectable night spots. But it is only a respite. The next shift starts at 7am.

Sunderland: the Jewel in the Cap
Channel 4, 11.00pm

At the start of the 1960s Sunderland still was one of the largest shipbuilding towns in the world. By 1988 the last ship had left the yard. This fine documentary was made over four years by a local film and video company, A19. It assesses the effect on Sunderland of the collapse of its staple industry and looks at attempts to fill the gap. The story is largely told through three families, each with a teenage child about to enter the job market. On the surface great things happen. An ambitious waterfront development is announced. The Nissan car factory arrives. Sunderland gets city status and its own university. The football team reaches the cup final. But there are few new jobs and the fine words start to sound hollow. **Peter Waymark**

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. Shane Richie is joined by Debbie Greenwood and Linda Lusardi (6714340) **9.55 London Today** (5757611)
10.00 The Time . . . The Place. John Stapleton invites a studio audience to air their views on a topical subject (s) (7039920)
10.35 This Morning. Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan host the weekday magazine programme (61482543) **12.20 London Today** (2292833)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (1217678) **12.55 Coronation Street** (r). (Teletext) (1292369)
1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (60807730) **1.55 Capital Woman** with Patti Coldwell (s) (13284746)
2.20 A Country Practice. Medical drama series (s) (87180017) **2.50 The Young Doctors**(3498562)
3.20 News headlines (7198920) **3.25 London Today** (7197291)
3.30 Tots TV (s) (7123920) **3.40 Rainbow** (7367814) **3.50 Telespin** (r) (s) (1108962) **4.20 Harry's Mad** (s) (2016765) **4.50 Art Attack** with Neil Buchanan (2150991)
5.10 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (5390475)
5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (105456)
6.00 London Tonight. (Teletext) (15562)
7.00 Wish You Were Here . . .? Judith Chalmers reports from Sri Lanka, Anna Walker travels through Switzerland on the Wilhelm Tell Express and John Carter explores the island of Guernsey. (Teletext) (s) (7307)
7.30 Coronation Street (Teletext) (833)
8.00 LIVE **Law and Disorder** (Teletext) (3727)
8.30 World in Action: Fields of Fire. The programme follows a former British soldier as he travels the world's war zones clearing land mines (s) (5582)



Romantic rivals Silberry and Wilson (9.00pm)

9.00 Under the Hammer. In the second part of John Mortimer's series set in an international auction house Richard Wilson bristles when he learns he has a rival-in-love (Michael Silberry). (Teletext) (s) (2185)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald (Teletext) Weather (90765) **10.30 London Tonight** (211611)
10.40 Dave Allen. A repeat of the Irish comic's most recent comedy series (r) (s) (519659)
11.10 Magnum. Tom Selleck befriends two survivors of the Holocaust who are being pursued by unrepentant Nazis (658678)
12.00 The Little Picture Show with Mariella Frostrup (59708)
1.00am Shannon's Deal starring Jamey Sheridan (9145760)
1.50 Beyond Reality. Ghostly drama (2187789)
2.20 Nite Bites (s) (6348505)
2.30 Sport AM (20654)
3.30 FILM: Goodbye Little One (1987). A wealthy father is distressed when his beautiful daughter falls in love with a working-class man. In Spanish with English dialogue. Directed by Imanol Uribe (12147)
5.00 Hollywood Report (r) (s) (35128)
5.30 ITN Morning News (23234). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Starcom. Animated adventures set in an American space station (5550123)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (27456)
9.00 You Bet Your Life. Game show hosted by Bill Cosby (r) (s) (77814)
9.30 Schools: Geography Start Here! (6197369) **9.45** Talk, Write and Read (6103920) **10.02** Science Start Here! (3496630) **10.18** World Studies: The Politics of Food (3415765) **10.40** The English Programme: Writing Non-Fiction (3544833) **11.07** Time for Maths (6937036) **11.18** Mathsbook (6926388) **11.30** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (5296036) **11.45** Junior Technology: Designing and Making (5284291)
12.00 Right to Reply. A repeat of Saturday's programme in which C4's *Hookers, Hustlers, Pimps and Their "Johns"* came in for criticism. (Teletext) (s) (97678)
12.30 Sesame Street. Early learning entertainment. The guest is singer Ziggy Marley (20611)
1.30 Bobobobs. Cartoon series about environmentally-correct space creatures (r) (51776)
2.00 Homefront. American drama serial about three Second World War veterans trying to readjust to small-town Ohio life (s) (8781833)
2.55 The Africa Passion. John Hemmway, born in Jamaica and educated in London, visits what he considers his spiritual home Africa on a 12,000 mile journey of discovery (r) (7425017)
3.55 Nature Perfected. A repeat of Friday's episode in the series on the history of gardening. (Teletext) (4660456)
4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (746)
5.00 The Late Late Show. Dublin's music and topical chat show hosted by Gay Byrne. (Teletext) (s) (7920)
6.00 The Wonder Years. American teenage comedy series starring Fred Savage (r). (Teletext) (611)
6.30 Roseanne. Wisecracking comedy (r) (Teletext) (s) (291)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (391123)
7.50 Comment from Marc Burke on the age of consent for homosexuals. (Teletext) (524253)
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. Tonight, Beth and Margaret make a bigger commitment to one another. (Teletext) (s) (1369)
8.30 Desmond's. Comedy set in a Peckham, south London, barber's (r). (Teletext) (s) (3104)



Student nurses work and play hard (9.00pm)

9.00 LIVE **Cutting Edge: Nurses.** (Teletext) (s) (8217)
10.00 Homicide: Life on the Street. Baltimore police drama series starring Yaphet Kotto and Ned Beatty. (Teletext) (s) (3814)
11.00 LIVE **Sunderland: The Jewel in the Cap** (10456)
12.30am Evening Shade. Comedy series (r) (s) (93505)
1.00 Let the Blood Run Free. Black comedy series set in a hospital (r) (s) (88706)
1.30 Town and Country. Singer/songwriter John Prine examines the influence of bluegrass on country music with help from Rosanne Cash and Peter Rowan and a visit to Kentucky, the home of the bluegrass sound (r) (s) (9570050). Ends at **2.25**

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes (FM only) **7.00** Steve Wright in the Morning **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Emma Freud, including at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Goodier in the Afternoon **4.00** Nicky Campbell with Drivetime, including **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** *Lee and Herring's Fist of Fun* (r) **9.30** Room 101 (2/6) **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00-4.00am** Lynn Parsons (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hubert Gregg says Thanks for the Memory **7.30** Alan Dell with Dance Band Days, and at **8.00** Big Band Era **8.30** Big Band Special: Bob Florence conducts the BBC Big Band in a programme of his own music **9.00** Humphrey Lyttelton with the Best of Jazz on record **10.00** Jazz Score **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes **1.00** Steve Madden with Night Ride **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service **8.30** Morning Edition **9.00** Schools: English 9-11; **9.20** Infant History; **9.30** The Song-Time: Music Course 1; **9.45** Let's Move; **10.05** History 9-11: Invaders and Settlers **10.25** Johnnie Walker with the AM Alternative **12.30pm** Body Talk **1.10** The Crunch **2.30** BFBS Worldwide **4.05** John Inverdale's Drive-In **6.30** Kiss Me Quick **7.15** The Sword in the Stone: T.H. White's story of King Arthur's boyhood. Read by Michael Crough (1/10) **7.30** Champion Sport **9.30** *X Minus One* **10.10** *Fabulous!* **12.00-12.10am** News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT. 4.30am** BBC English **4.45** News and Press Review in German **5.00** Morgenmagazin; Tips for Tourisiten **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** News **6.15** The *Learning World* **6.30** *Europe Today* **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** A Wandering Crow — The Story of Master Basho **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Health Matters **8.30** Anything Goes **8.05** World Business Report Special **9.15** Unconsidered Trifles **9.30** Andy Kershaw's World of Music **9.45** *Sports Roundup* **10.01** Heritage **10.30** This Vintage Chart Show **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin **Noon** News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** Inspiration **12.45** Sport **1.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf: *Stories of Mystery* **2.45** The Multitrack Sessions **3.00** News **3.15** Opera of the Week **4.00** News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** News **5.05** World Business Report Special **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** Nachrichten **7.05** Kaleidoskop **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.15** Meridian **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.05** World Business Report **11.15** On Screen **11.30** Multitrack 1 **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** Maestro **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Folk Routes **1.45** Health Matters **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Inspiration **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** John Peel **4.00** News **4.15** Health Matters

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto: Beethoven (Triple Concerto in C) **3.00** Petroc Trelawny **6.00** Margaret Howard **7.00** Musical Landscapes: Norfolk **8.00** Evening Concert, recorded on January 1 at St Martin-in-the-Fields, in aid of the London Lighthouse **10.00** Michael Meppin **1.00-6.00am** Jane Jones

VIRGIN 1215

6.00am Russ and Jono **10.00** Richard Skinner **1.00pm** Graham Dene **4.00** Tommy Vance **7.00** Mitch Johnson *10.00 Nick Abbot* **2.00am** Paul Coyle

ANGLIA

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (13284746) **2.20-2.50** Yan Can Cook (87180017) **5.10-5.40** Swot or Wot? (3390475) **6.00** Home and Away (195185) **6.25-7.00** Anglia Weather and Anglia News (525833) **10.40** Love Call (139833) **11.40** Street Legal (597901) **12.40am** Sword of Honour (1566925) **1.40** Sport AM (1230215) **2.40** Memories of 1970-1988 (6886857) **3.35** The Best (2779470) **4.30** Jobfinder (3714692) **5.05-5.30** America's Top Ten (5378532)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55 Shortland Street (13284746) **2.20** Cooking at the Academy (87180017) **2.50-3.20** A Country Practice (3498562) **5.10-5.40** Swot or Wot? (3390475) **6.00** Home and Away (195185) **6.25-7.00** *Central News and Weather* (525833) **11.10** The Monday Night Fight (360901) **12.10am** Wanted Dead or Alive (6699321) **12.45** Lone Wolf McQuade (28712128) **2.50** Sport AM (4414079) **3.50** *Hollywood Report* (76269944) **4.15** Jobfinder (1498147) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (4839921)

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (13284746) **2.20-2.50** Yan Can Cook (87180017) **5.00** HTV News (369) **5.30-7.00** Hannah, USA (949) **11.10** Roadrunner (670340) **11.40** Spotlight (821272) **12.10am** Grapevine (8698321) **12.45** Sword of Honour (1585925) **1.40** Sport AM (1230215) **2.40** Memories of 1970-1988 (6886857) **3.35** The Best (2779470) **4.30** Jobfinder (3714692) **5.05-5.30** America's Top Ten (5378532)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 6.00-6.30 Wales at Six (369) **11.10** Voyage Around Africa (978611) **11.55-12.10pm** Rock Sport (721833)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (13284746) **2.20** Housesparty (87180017) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (3498562) **3.25-3.30** Meridian News and Weather (7197291) **5.37-5.40** *Three Minutes - The Listings* (812340) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (369) **6.30-7.00** Country Ways (949) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather (211611) **11.10-12.00** The Real Report: The Third Meridian Audit (658678)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (13284746) **2.20** Wish You Were Here..? (87199765) **2.45-2.50** Help Yourself (3979543) **3.25-3.30** Tyne Tees News / Bikedale: Network North (7197291) **5.55** Tyne Tees Today / Network North (558036) **6.30-7.00** Put It in Writing (949) **10.30-10.40** Tyne Tees News and Weather (211611) **11.10** Prisoner Cell Block H (632630) **12.05am** Sail the World (3503296) **12.35** The War of Fools (3039031) **2.30** The New Music (20654) **3.30** ITV Chart Show (2787499) **4.25-5.30** Jobfinder (5103970)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 8.55-10.00 Westcountry Latest (5757611) **12.20pm-12.30** Westcountry Latest (2282833) **1.55** The Young Doctors (29854272) **2.25** Gardening Time (87189388) **2.55-3.20** A Country Practice (91267855) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry Latest (7197291) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (15562) **10.30-10.40** Westcountry Latest (211611) **11.10** *The Powers That Be (973949)* **11.35** *Trials of Rosie O'Neill* (617455) **12.30am** My Story (4058031) **12.55** Night Shift (5634741) **12.45** Sword of Honour (1585925) **1.40** Sport AM (1230215) **2.40** Memories of 1970-1988 (6886857) **3.35** The Best (2779470) **4.30** Jobfinder (3714692) **5.05-5.30** America's Top Ten (5378532)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Calendar News and Weather (5757611) **12.20pm** *Yorkshire: Calendar News and Weather* / Bikedale: Network North (2292833) **12.30-12.55** ITN News; Weather. (1217678) **1.55** A Country Practice (13284746) **2.20-2.45** Wish You Were Here..? (87199765) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (558036) **6.30-7.00** *Enterprize 94* (949) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News (211611) **11.10** Prisoner Cell Block H (632630) **12.05am** Sail the World (3503296) **12.35** The War of Fools (3039031) **2.30** The New Music (20654) **3.30** ITV Chart Show (2787499) **4.25-5.30** Jobfinder (5103970)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (27456) **9.00** You Bet Your Life (778114) **9.30** Ysgolion/Schools. (561765) **12.00pm** Right To Reply (97678) **12.30** Siot Medhon (94535) **1.00** Roseanne Lleir (20543) **1.30** Blossom Kiss And Tell (51776) **2.00** Hometront Tales My Hand (9781833) **2.55** The Oprah Winfrey Show Diana Ross The (8153456) **3.45** Laural And Hardy (7117369) **4.00** Slot 23 (7388) **5.00** Batman Better Luck Next Time (5185) **5.30** Counidown (758) **6.00** Newyddion(299475) **6.20** Cwlwm Serch (191494) **6.25** Hano (528475) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm Pardi pen-blwydd Sioned yn llwydd oed. A lydd Megan (5949) **7.30** Delweddau r (475) **8.00** Mr-ledron Mr- Ledron Y Gogledd (1369) **8.30** Newyddion/news (3104) **9.00** Sgorio (8217) **10.00** Brookside (98307) **10.30** Cheers Someday My P rince Will Comer (74727) **11.00** Homicide - Life On The Street: A Dog And Pony (389033) **11.55** Trial And Error (333982)

RADIO 3

5.55am Weather 7.00 On Air:
- Berlioz (Overture, *Le Corsaire*);
- Mendelssohn (Song Without Words in E flat, Book 3 No 1);
- *Zelenka (Trio Sonata No 1 in F)*;
- Mitnaud (Chamber *Symphony No 1, Op 43, 'Printemps')*;
- Purcell (Hear me, O Lord, the Great Support);
- Shostakovich (Piano Concerto No 2 in F)

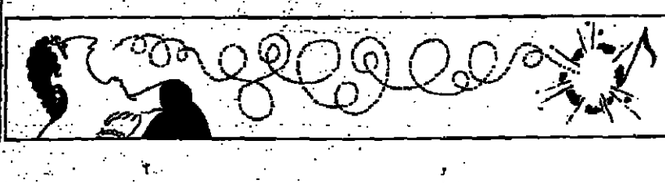
9.00 Composer of the Week: Bela Bartók (Violin Concerto No 1; *String Quartet No 1*)
10.00 Musical Encounters: Haydn (*Symphony No 1 in D*); Artist of the Week: Margaret Price, soprano, sings Mozart (*Ch'io mi scordi di te? K505*); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 1 in C); Schubert (Der Hirt auf dem Felsen); Haydn (Symphony No 45 in F sharp minor, Farewell)
12.00 Angles on Puccini: Roberta Alexander introduces excerpts from *Madame Butterfly* (r)
1.00pm News 1.05 BBC Lunchtime Concert: John Lill plays Beethoven (Piano Concerto in C, Op 53; Waldstein); Rachmaninov (Piano Sonata No 2 in B flat minor, Op 36)
2.05 A Dutch Retrospect: Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra under Wolfgang Sawallisch performs Beethoven (Overture, The Consecration of the House; Symphony No 4 in B flat). *2.45* Sir George Smart visits Beethoven in September, 1825. *2.50* Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A)
3.30 Prelachuitz for Wind: Consortium Classicum performs instrumental excerpts from Weber's opera, arranged for wind by Wenzel Sedlek
3.45 Elizabethan Words and Music: A sequence of musical settings and readings of poetry by Sir Philip Sidney
4.30 A Different Rhythm: The impact of black music on the British music scene (3/8)
5.00 The Music Machine: Tommy Pearson asks Dudley Moore what makes music funny
5.15 In Tune: Gilbert and Sullivan (Climbing over Rocky Mountain, The Pirates of Penzance); Debussy (Sarabande from Images); Liszt (Orpheus — Symphonic Poem); *Palestrina (Gloria, Missa Brevis)*
7.30 Brahms: Tragic Overture; Double Concerto in A minor; Symphony No 3 in F (Maxim Vengerov, violin, Boris Pergamenshikov, cello; Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under Claudio Abbado)
9.00 Figures in the Margin: The first of five programmes in which Stephen Banfield takes an irreverent look at the British musical renaissance
9.15 Love, Life and Longing: BBC Singers under Simon Joly perform a concert which explores the idea of journeying
10.45 Minding It, with Robert Sandall and Mark Russell
11.30 Music Restored: Handel (Olinto, il Tebro, Gloria)
12.30-12.35am News 1.00-2.25 Night School (except in Scotland: as Radio 5 at 9am)
2.30-3.00 Night School Extra

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, Incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.45** *Business News* **8.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.35** The Week on 4 **8.40** Bombs, Booze and Barrack Rooms: Peter Dixon recalls air raid shelters **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with Melvyn Bragg
10.00-10.30am Questions of Taste (FM only): The food and drink quiz from the Bailiffscourt Hotel, West Sussex. Anthony Worral Thompson, Jennifer Paterson, Oz Clarke and Matthew Fort join Chris Kelly round the table
10.00 News; Daily Service (LW only) from St Paul's Church, Bedford
10.15 The Bible (LW only): Mark. Read by Juliet Stevenson (r)
10.30 Woman's Hour: Jenni Murray talks to American author Kate Roiphe about date rape. Incl *11.00 News*
11.30 Money Box Live: 071-580 4444 from 10am
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm My Music: Steve Race chairs the musical panel game. With John Arms, Frank Muir, Ian Wallace and Denis Norden **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping
2.00 News; The Faithful Heart, by Stephanie Miller. Based on a true story of determined young love. Starring Mary Wimbush and Petra Markham (r)
3.00 Three Actors in Search of a Character: John Florance discusses what it is like to embody William Shakespeare with actors Nigel Cooke, David Suchet and Chris Harris (r)
3.30 In Excess: Homo Freneticus. In the first of four programmes, Armando Iannucci tries to keep up with the high-fliers who make full use of every waking moment (r)
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Natalie Wheen reviews the work of the composer John Tavener; and guitarist John Williams and composer Richard Harvey play a new concerto for guitar and orchestra in the studio
4.45 Short Story: Down to the Ground, by Michael Carson. Read by David Horovitch
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: A Raging Fury. See Choice
9.15 Kaleidoscope (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight 9.59 Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime. A Better Class of Person. See Choice
11.00 Discursive Excursions: The difficulties of travelling in the polar regions
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News, incl **12.27** *Weather 12.33* Shipping **12.43** As World Service (LW only)

The Monday Play: Raging Fury. *Radio 4, 7.45pm.*
I was afraid that, in strenuously avoiding labelling the characters "goodies" or "baddies", Christopher Reason's highly emotional play would lean so far backwards that it would slip a disc. It offers a plethora of extenuating circumstances to explain the wildly alarming behaviour of a middle-aged son (James Aubrey) and the sick father (John Branwell) who treated him abominably as a boy and whom he now cares for at home. Reason offers some parallels between domestic warfare and hostilities in the Gulf in 1991. Some prove to be valid. Others do not.

Book at Bedtime: A Better Class of Person. *Radio 4, 10.45pm.*
Peter Egan's reading of the autobiography of John Osborne carries the author's imprimatur. Egan was Osborne's choice, as indeed he was when he played Jimmy Porter revisited in Osborne's *Déjà Vu*. Episode one of Osborne's life has some semi-Dickensian thumbnail sketches of his family and of Osborne the lad, sporting a beret in an early attempt at dandyism, and being fed buns and sweets by Woolworth chars. **Peter Davalle**


THE CLASSIC OPERA GUIDE.
TUESDAY 7PM.
CLASSIC fM 100–102

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am DJ Kat (89989036) **8.40** Lamb Chops (7104949) **9.10** Cartoons (2819185) **9.30** Card Sharks (9744524) **9.55** Concentration (9752543) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (6981098) **10.30** Love at First Sight (22386) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (58123) **12.00** *The Urban Peasant (79140)* **12.30pm** Paradise Beach (56833) **1.00** Barnaby Jones (51388) **2.00** King (54036) **3.00** Another World (5503123) **3.45** The DJ Kat Show (2196830) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (2650) **6.00** Games World (5833) **6.30** Paradise Beach (6185) **7.00** M*A*S*H (8889) **7.30** Rescue (2369) **8.00** Diana: Her True Story (93901) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (15855) **11.00** The Untouchables (743988) **12.00** The Stress of San Francisco (68012) **1.00am** Night Court (88895) **1.30-2.00** Maniac Mansion (50037)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (53458) **9.30** 60 Minutes (25494) **11.30** Japan Business Today (80362) **12.30pm** News and Business (51678) **1.30** CBS News (52307) **2.30** Parliament (31104) **4.30** News and Business (2982) **5.00** *Live at Five* (744036) **7.30** Special Report (3611) **9.30** Talkback (34811) **11.30** CBS News (47036) **12.30am** ABC News (17383) **1.30** Special Report (95147) **2.30** Travel (42983) **3.30** Talkback (54708) **4.30** Special Report (24418) **5.30-6.00** CBS News (58586)

SKY MOVIES

8.00am Showcase (5314901)
10.00 Late for Dinner (1991): Brian Wimmer and Peter Berg are frozen (67949)
12.00 Queimada! (1969): Marlon Brando incites a rebellion (28611)
2.00pm *Paper Lion* (1968): George Plimpton's experiences with the Detroit Lions football team. With Alan Alda (83388)
4.00 Son of Sinbad (1955): Arabian Nights yarn with Dale Robertson (7582)
6.00 Late for Dinner (as 10am) (15120765)
7.40 UK Top Ten (542524)
8.00 Black Death (1992): Kate Jackson plays a doctor battling an outbreak of bubonic plague in New York (85369)
10.00 Class Act (1992): High school comedy with rappers Kid 'n' Play (656901)
11.40 Beneath the Valley of the Ultra Vixens (1979): Soft-core comedy (141949)
1.20am Men of Respect (1991): Modern-day version of *Macbeth* (538857)
2.55 Wife, Mother, Murderer (1991): Starring Judith Light (6217186)
4.20 Son of Sinbad (as 4pm) (8820499). Ends at **5.50**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm The Band Wagon (1935): Dance musical with Fred Astaire (68630)
8.00 Missing (1982): Jack Lemmon searches for his political activist son (75057340)
10.05 The World's Greatest Lover (1977): Gene Wilder becomes an unlikely sex symbol (9981223). Ends at **12.00**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Dance With Me Henry (1956): Abbott and Costello romp (84543)
8.00 Freddie as FRO7 (1992): Animated British film about a secret agent frog (36630)
10.00 The Girl He Left Behind (1956, b/w): *Tab Hunter is recruited in to the army (56891)*
12.00 Stalk the Wild Child (1976): David Janssen tries to tame a boy (26253)
2.00pm The Man Who Could Cheat Death (1959): Hammer horror film (84630)
4.00 Freddie as FRO7 (as 8am) (5104)
5.00 Father, Son and the Mistress (1992): Comedy with Jack Lemmon (33393611)
7.35 Special Feature: Tales from Hollywood (281801)
8.00 Barton Fink (1991): John Turturro suffers from writer's block in 1930s Hollywood. *With John Goodman (76811)*
10.00 Navy Seals (1990): Michael Biehn leads a commando force (785096)
11.55 High Heels (1991): Melodrama about the stormy relationship between a Madrid newsreader and her mother (993104)
1.55am Immortal Sins (1991): A couple inherit a haunted Spanish castle (5243925)
3.25 Zoot Suit (1981): Unusual 1940s-set musical (84138073) Ends at **5.05**

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Prime Bodies (25086) **7.30** Sportsrolls (98283) **8.00** World Sports (12088) **8.30** High Five (11369) **9.00** Prime Bodies (35849) **9.30** Football: Newcastle United v QPR (45272) **11.30** Tennis (9694746) **5.00** *Snowboarding (8785)* **5.30** *Trucks and Tractors (9876)* **6.00** Soccer News (995272) **6.15** WWF Challenge (607036) **7.00** US PGA Golf (384678) **9.30** Ringside (52104) **10.00** Soccer News (496727) **10.15-1.00am** Australian Open Tennis (24588389)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Step Aerobics (99611) **8.00** Speedskating (61036) **9.00** Skiing (67524) **11.00** Cross

Granada to comply with OFT over advertising

■ The clock may have been stopped on Britain's biggest television bid, but Granada chief executive Gerry Robinson is confident he can comply with OFT demands

BY NEIL BENNETT

GRANADA has told the Office of Fair Trading that it is willing to sell off its television advertising sales business in an effort to silence any objections the competition regulator may have to its £683 million bid for LWT.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, says the group will consider selling its 50 per cent stake in The Time Exchange, its advertising sales arm, to Scottish Television, its joint venture partner, in an effort to reduce its share of the UK's television advertising market.

Were its bid to succeed, Granada would have an estimated 31 per cent of the total UK television advertising market. The OFT is thought to be keen to see that cut to below the key 25 per cent figure that constitutes a statutory majority.

Granada's proposal to sell its stake in The Time Exchange is one of several the company has made to the OFT in order to secure regulatory approval for its bid. The group may otherwise look at ways of unwinding the joint venture, which also sells airtime for both Border and Grampian Television.

Alternatively, Yorkshire-Tyne Tees television may want to pull out of its deal with LWT to sell its advertising through LWT's sales arm. But sources close to LWT suggest that Yorkshire will demand heavy compensation of £10 million or more to withdraw.

Mr Robinson said he was relaxed about the OFT enquiry into his group's television advertising operations. "There is not the slightest chance of an MMC enquiry, provided we give up certain assets. There are a dozen possible routes of achieving that. But no-one was ever under the impression that we would get to keep everything," he said.

Last week, the Takeover Panel ordered that the timetable for Granada's bid should be stopped while the OFT examined the competition issues.

The OFT is expected to report its findings on Thursday, and LWT would then have two more days to present any further defence. After that, Granada would have an extra week to announce a final offer, in which it is expected to increase the terms of the cash alternative in an attempt to bring the bid to a rapid close.

Mr Robinson confirmed that Granada asked the Takeover Panel to freeze the bid until the OFT makes a ruling on it.

He said: "We do not like giving LWT extra time but we need to have this OFT thing signed off. We cannot produce an unconditional offer until we have it sewn up."

LWT opposed the Panel's move to stop the clock. A source close to the company said it was confident that it could beat off the bid and wanted to keep up the momentum of its defence without any delay.

Despite its resistance, the delay in the bid allows more time for a white knight to emerge and bid for LWT. Over the weekend, several leading American media groups, including Time Warner and Disney, were said to have talked to LWT about the possibility of taking a strategic 20 per cent stake.

LWT is also thought to have courted a number of European media and publishing groups, including Reed Elsevier. But its efforts are believed to have been unsuccessful as yet. LWT refused to comment on whether it was talking to potential counter-bidders.

Mr Robinson poured scorn on LWT's chances of attracting a white knight. "Fools with big bags of money are not easy to come by," he said.

"This offer comes at the top of the market. The idea that these television companies will leap further onto fairyland price/earnings ratios cannot be true.

"If someone did take a stake without making a full bid, it would be terrible for shareholders, of which we are one. Granada is probably the only bidder which can pay this sort of price and make the deal work."



MARTIN BEDDALL

Patrick Copeland, former president and chief executive officer of Intercontinental Hotels, is today appointed Group Director Hotels for Forte. Rocco Forte, the chairman, said: "His significant international and hotel experience will be highly valuable to us." Mr Copeland, who has specific responsibility for Forte's hotel business units, is pictured at Forte's Hyde Park Hotel, the group's Knightsbridge flagship

Lloyd's faces $20m claim over Michael Jackson tour

BY JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London is facing a claim for $20 million arising from the collapse of Michael Jackson's "Dangerous" world tour. But the insurance market may have been spared the brunt of two other claims relating to the pop star that could take the total to $60 million.

The insurance cover of the tour promoters, Mama Concerts and RAU GMBH, is led by Lloyd's and spread across several syndicates. However, a second policy relating to personal insurance for the entertainer's loss of earnings may not even be at Lloyd's. Unconfirmed weekend reports spoke of a £20 million claim.

The singer abandoned his world tour in November, blaming an addiction to painkillers. To successfully claim against such cover, he would have to prove it was his addiction that forced him to abandon his plans.

The tour was cancelled amid a storm over allegations of child abuse. A third potential claim by PepsiCo, the soft drinks group that backed the tour but withdrew sponsorship in November, is believed to be led by AIG, the American insurer.

Lloyd's is not thought to have exposure to claims relating to a so-called "death and disgrace" policy held by PepsiCo, which spent considerable sums on promoting the tour. Such policies are designed to compensate for loss of sponsorship value if an entertainer dies, falls ill or becomes involved in scandal.

☐ Lloyd's of London's rebel investors will be "sorely disappointed" if they pursue it through the courts for compensation. David Rowland, the chairman, says in this month's issue of *One Lime Street*, the Lloyd's newsletter.

About 17,000 investors are considering legal action. They would be required to drop any claims if they accepted an offer made by Lloyd's, which has to be voted on by February 14.

Mr Rowland writes: "I cannot conjure resources to reapportion between the names other than those which already belong to them."

Michael Jackson, who abandoned his world tour

Lottery group looks to luck of the Irish

BY OUR CITY STAFF

TWO high-profile candidates are today set to join the list of business and political leaders competing to run the £4 billion-a-year National Lottery.

John Fitzpatrick, founder of the Irish national lottery, is expected to be confirmed as chief executive of the Lottery Foundation, the non-profit contender fronted by Richard Branson and Lord Young of Graffham. Meanwhile, Lord Craig, a former chief of the defence staff, has been tipped as potential chairman of the "dark horse" bid led by the Tote, GEC and Thorn EMI.

Mr Fitzpatrick is widely credited for the success of the Irish national lottery, which he ran for four years after founding it in 1986. No one was availabe to comment yesterday on reports that Lord Craig has been approached to chair the Tote-led consortium.

Eight consortiums are now bidding for the licence to run the UK National Lottery. A month before the February 14 deadline for bids, the consortiums led by the Rank Organisation and the Tote have yet to reveal their hands.

The Tote has brought Autotote, an American company, in on its bid. Rank is working with Andersen Consulting and WCRS, an advertising agency.

Carnelot Group, led by Sir Ron Dearing, a former Post Office chairman, yesterday played down reports of investigations into GTECH, its American technical partner.

Clayton Jackson, a former GTECH lobbyist, has been convicted in California of racketeering, money laundering and mail fraud. None of the three charges on which he was convicted involved GTECH.

Investigations into the awarding of lottery contracts are continuing in California, Maryland and Kentucky.

Germany pays more in MG rescue

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

A CONSORTIUM of international banks rescued Metallgesellschaft, Germany's 14th largest industrial group, from certain bankruptcy this weekend after a deal for the metals group was hammered out in ten hours of talks.

In a sometimes acrimonious atmosphere, Germany's powerful banks were manoeuvred by foreign creditors into bearing a much greater burden of the DM3.4 billion rescue package for the ailing metals group than they had intended.

Kajo Neukirchen, MG's new management board chairman, said on Saturday: "With the support of the banks, Metallgesellschaft now has a basis which has opened up new prospects. We can now dedicate ourselves to the tasks ahead with all our strength."

The last-ditch talks, held on Saturday in a Frankfurt hotel, were the culmination of ten days of wrangling between the 120 creditor banks over who should pay for the rescue.

The vast conglomerate, with activities ranging from mining to financial services, sacked its two top executives in December after plunging into a loss of DM1.8 billion in 1992-93.

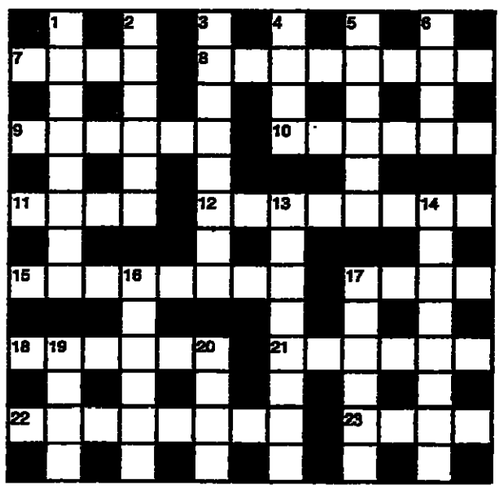
It has said it could lose another DM1.5 billion this business year on US oil deals which went awry. Its problems left no alternative but a rapid bank rescue.

In the final deal, German banks agreed to shoulder a larger than expected burden in each of three elements of the liquidity package — a DM1.4 billion capital rise, DM1.3 billion of debt conversion and DM700 million of new credits.

Although Deutsche Bank led the MG rescue, the whole operation has prompted widespread criticism of the bank's role in the events that led to MG's near collapse.

At the beginning of last year, Deutsche Bank had jointly with MG announced it was offering special services for managing risk on oil products, the area in which MG last year made a DM770.2 million loss and faces potential losses of DM1.5billion.

The fact that Ronaldo Schmitz of Deutsche Bank was also supervisory board chairman at MG has also provoked questions about how much the bank knew as losses mounted.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 64

ACROSS
7 Absent (4)
8 Country border (8)
9 Causing death (6)
10 Firmly based; settled (6)
11 Extent; distance between two points (4)
12 Disinterested (8)
15 Artificially high male voice (8)
17 Great delight (4)
18 Empty condition (6)
21 Hole, esp in teeth (6)
22 Logical; sane (8)
23 Luxuriant; grade (4)

DOWN
1 Fragrant climber, various pastel shades (5,3)
2 Mark splitting or joining words (6)
3 Well-off (8)
4 Sleep rough (4)
5 Capital of Canada (6)
6 Spring; fit (4)
13 Type of cabbage, bunched green heads (8)
14 Equestrian sport (8)
16 Artist's workplace (6)
17 Control, rule (6)
19 Member of Semitic people (4)
20 A flirt (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 63

ACROSS: 1 Manful 5 Bundle 8 Oboe 9 Pickwick 10 Prosit 12 Apse 15 Transcription 16 Asia 17 Dreamy 19 Theorise 21 Sake 22 Weasel 23 Secure

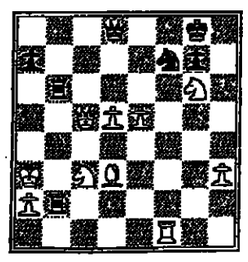
DOWN: 2 Ambergris 3 Foe 4 Lipstick 5 Bach 6 Newcastle 7 Lac 11 Senna pods 13 Shoemaker 14 Mildness 18 Hill 20 Hoe 21 Sac

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times Concise Crosswords — Books 1 & 2 (Special Edition 240 puzzles) £5.74 each, Books 3 & 4 £4.25 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords — Book 1 £5.25, Book 2 £5.99, Concise Book 1 £5.99. The Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 13 £4.74 each, Books 14 to 16 £4.25 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 10 £4.74 each, Book 11 £4.25. Concise Books 1 & 2 £4.25 each. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques to *Akom Ltd*, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards. Just released from Times Books. The Times Crosswords — Book 17. The Times Concise Crosswords — Book 5. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Book 12. £4.25 each (inc p&p).

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Sadler - Sherbakov, Hastings Premier 1993. How can White further his own ambitions on the kingside, whilst keeping Black under control on the other flank?



Solution, page 33
Raymond Keene, page 4

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HOMUNCLE
a. A warty growth
b. Sharing an uncle
c. A mannikin

INCIPIT
a. First lines
b. A neck bone
c. A C of E canticle

VERATRUM
a. A plough share
b. The neck of a cave
c. Hellebore

WIN
a. Gorse
b. To dwell
c. The toecap of a boot

Answers on page 33

WH Smith expands in America

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

WH SMITH is to roll out its Waterstone's chain of specialist bookstores in America after encouraging results from its initial two pilot stores.

The decision to expand the chain was taken at a board meeting at the end of last year and will be announced officially later this month.

WH Smith currently has two Waterstone's stores in America, one in Boston, which was opened in 1991, and a second in Chicago, opened at the end of 1992. The group has been considering expansion for some time but was reluctant to rush into a decision, having seen so many other British retailers come unstuck in America.

Philip Downer, a former director of Our Price, has been appointed to the new position of vice-president of Waterstone's in America. Mr Downer said the group would open about three new stores this year in the cities where they are already represented.

It also plans to open Waterstone's stores in airports, as part of its airport development programme. An outlet is due to open at Cincinnati next month to add to an existing site at Pittsburgh.

Mr Downer said the $17 billion American book market offered considerable scope for WH Smith. "The Americans buy more books per head than the British and it is a fast-growing market." Last year, book sales rose 7 per cent.

The Best News for Groups Since Eric Clapton Bought his Fender Stratocaster

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